

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Gillespie, Melvin J. (1987) 233 St. Vincent Street [Glasgow]: an interior by Charles Rennie Mackintosh [dissertation]. The Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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VOLUME II

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REPORT THE WACKINTO J-ES

PART I description

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ABOUT THE MACKINTOSHES

CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH

Born on 7 June 1868 in Glasgow.

Apprenticed from 1884, aged 16, to 1896, aged 28, when he became an architect in his own right. Worked at Hutchison's from 1884 to 89 and at Honeyman & Keppie (now Keppie Henderson) from 1889 to 1914, becoming a partner in 1904, aged 36. Moved to London and worked in Chelsea from 1915 to 23, when he retired at age 55. Moved to the south of France, painting at Port Vendres from 1923 to 27.

Died on 10 December 1928 in London, aged 60, of cancer.

His work:

The Glasgow School of Art building was his major architectural work, with Windyhill, Kilmacolm and Hill House, Helensburgh being his two major houses. His furniture and interior designs, however, form the major part of his creative output. He designed more than 300 pieces of furniture during a short working life of only some 25 years.

MARGARET MacDONALD MACKINTOSH

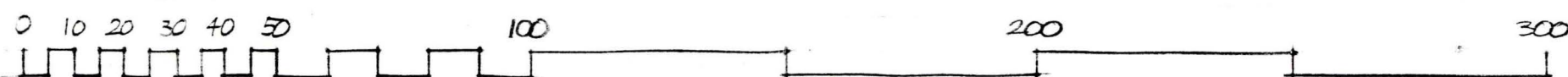
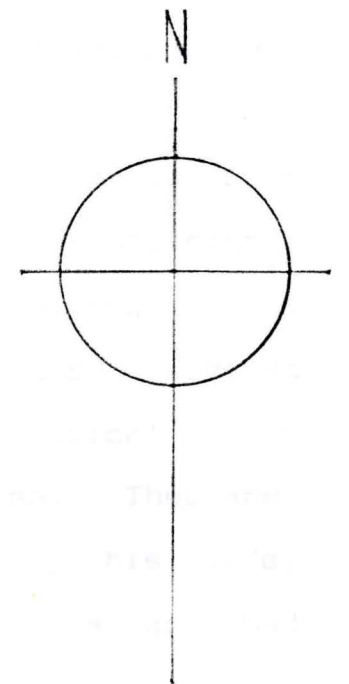
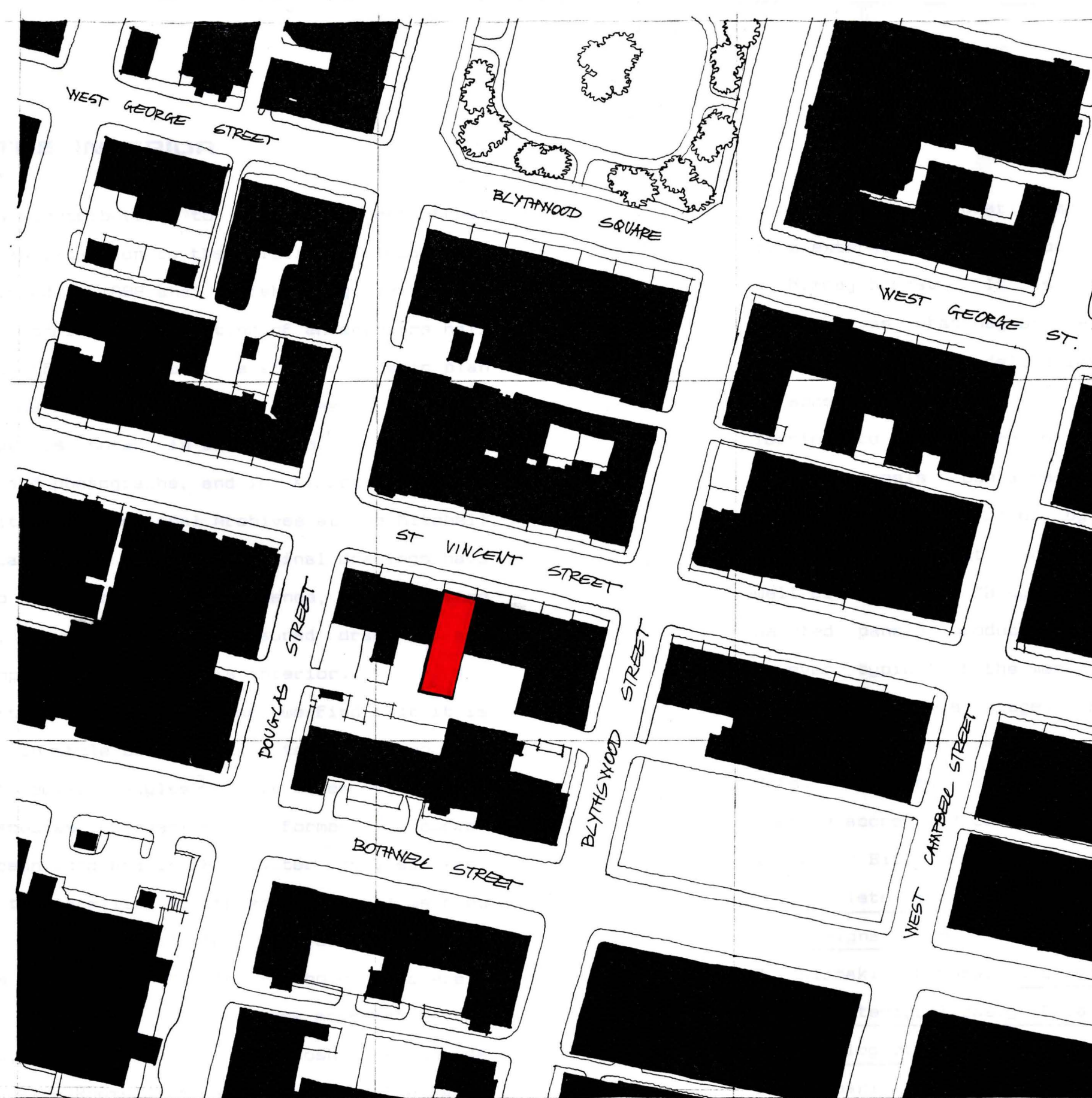
Born on 5 November 1864 in Tipton near Wolverhampton.

Her father was Glasgow born and the family moved back to Glasgow in 1890. Margaret registered at the Art School as a day student, aged 26. She met Mackintosh by late 1894 and married him in 1900, aged 36. Collaborated in his work from 1898 to 1916 and supported him during his delcining years.

Died on 7 January 1933 in London, aged, 69, of heart failure.

Her work:

Watercolours, metalwork and graphics of gaunt human forms and stylised plant forms make up the greater part of her creative work. By the late 1890's, however, she had broken away from the so called "spook school" style and began using muted colours for atmosphere - soft greens and yellows. The major and best part of her work was produced during the years of collaboration with her husband.



Gillespie
17/7/86

ABOUT THE INTERIOR

Mackintosh's contribution to 233 St Vincent Street consists of an extension to the existing offices which was commissioned in 1898 and finished by 1899. It was a minor commission consisting of an entrance hall and top lit offices beyond, a similar generic plan form to the Tea Rooms - which it predates.

The interior is noted in Billcliffe¹, a written description and photographs, and in Kimura². After checking with the Regional Archives at the Mitchell Library it was found that no original drawings have survived to the present day. Hence, the following photographs, survey notes and measured drawings are the only complete record of this interior.

Starting with the entrance door, we find that it is transitional in style between Mackintosh's art nouveau and post art nouveau styles³. It makes use of both curves and squares, whereas in the former only curves would have been used and in the latter only squares. Inside, in the panelling to the entrance hall we find the use of a highly modelled bas relief - in this case, copies of the Elgin Marbles - above a severely rectilinear panelling. This gives movement to the wall surface, a device which Mackintosh was to use again in the Tea Rooms at a later date. The ante room wall panelling, however, exhibits a more flamboyant, curvilinear detailing. Also, one of the

four, large, decorative motifs found in this room is more extensive than the others and would appear to be a chimney breast. It is not possible to say for certain, as what may be the fireplace opening below, has been rather crudely bricked up and plastered over at some later date.

Turning to the ceiling of the ante room we find painted panels contained within a symmetrical, geometric pattern formed by timber mouldings. The colours and abstract plant/fish motifs used here, as well as the rather "busy" style are not typical of the painted panels produced by Mackintosh. They are, however, typical of the work produced by his wife, Margaret at this stage. Furthermore, Margaret had begun to collaborate in Mackintosh's work by this date. We feel, therefore that these painted panels must be accredited to Margaret.

- 1 Roger Billcliffe, Charles Rennie Mackintosh - the complete furniture, furniture drawings & interior designs, 1979. P62.
- 2 Hiroaki Kimura, Charles Rennie Mackintosh - Architectural design Catalogue & Design analytical catalogue, 1982. Part 1, P9.
- 3 Hiroaki Kimura, Charles Rennie Mackintosh - Architectural design catalogue & Design analytical catalogue, 1982. Part 2, doorways 1886 - 1920.

Moving on, we find exposed roof trusses used in the corridor and in the large office at the rear of the extension. These are similar in design to those used by Mackintosh at the Glasgow School of Art, which they predate, although they are not quite as daring in execution.

In the doors to the offices in the extension we have a similar curvilinear detail at the mid rails to that used in the main entrance door.

Finally, in the fireplace of one of the two small offices we have a curvilinear mantel piece. The actual fireplace opening, however, has been flush panelled over at a later date. It is, therefore, not possible to see if Mackintosh has used a tiled detail around the hearth as at, for example, Hill House.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Billcliffe, Roger. Charles Rennie Mackintosh - the complete furniture, furniture drawings & interior designs. Guilford & London, Lutterworth Press, 1979.

Kimura, Hiroaki. Charles Rennie Mackintosh - Architectural design catalogue & Design analytical catalogue. Glasgow, History dissertation, 1982. 2 vols.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Number	Description
1	Elevation to St Vincent Street
2	External elevation of entrance door
3	General view of entrance hall
4	Internal elevation of entrance door
5	Bas relief No A1
6	Bas relief No A2
7	Bas relief No B1
8	Bas relief No B2
9	Bas relief No C1
10	Bas relief No C2
11	Overall view of newel post
12	Detail of newel post
13	Panelling to ante room wall 'C'
14	Ante room wall 'A'
15	Panelling to ante room wall 'B'
16	Arched opening to ante room wall 'D'
17	Ceiling to ante room
18-22	Roof trusses to corridor
23	Door to office No 5
24	Door to offices No 3 & 4
25-29	Roof trusses to office No 5
30	Fireplace to office No 3
31-33	Elevations to lane at rear

APPENDIX II

LIST OF SURVEY NOTES

Number	Description
1	Plan at Level 2
2	Roof plan
3	Details of front entrance door
4	Panelling to entrance hall wall 'A'
5	Panelling to entrance hall wall 'B'
6	Panelling to entrance hall wall 'C'
7	Details of newel post
8	Panelling to ante room walls 'B' & 'C'
9	Detail 'A' - full size
10	Details 'B' & 'C' - full size
11	Ceiling to ante room
12	Transverse sections through corridor roof trusses
13	Longitudinal section through corridor roof trusses
14	Details of doors to offices No 3, 4 & 5
15	Panelling to corridor & fireplace to office No 3
16	Details 'D' & 'E' - full size
17	Transverse sections through office roof trusses
18	Detail 'F' - full size
19	Longitudinal section through office roof trusses

APPENDIX III

LIST OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Number	Description
1	Plan at Level 2
2	Longitudinal sectional elevation
3	Worm's eye axonometric
4	Details of door, panelling & newel post to entrance
5	Details of panelling & ceiling to ante room
5	Details of doors to offices & panelling to corridor
6	Axonometrics & details of roof trusses
7	Silhouettes of doors & roof trusses

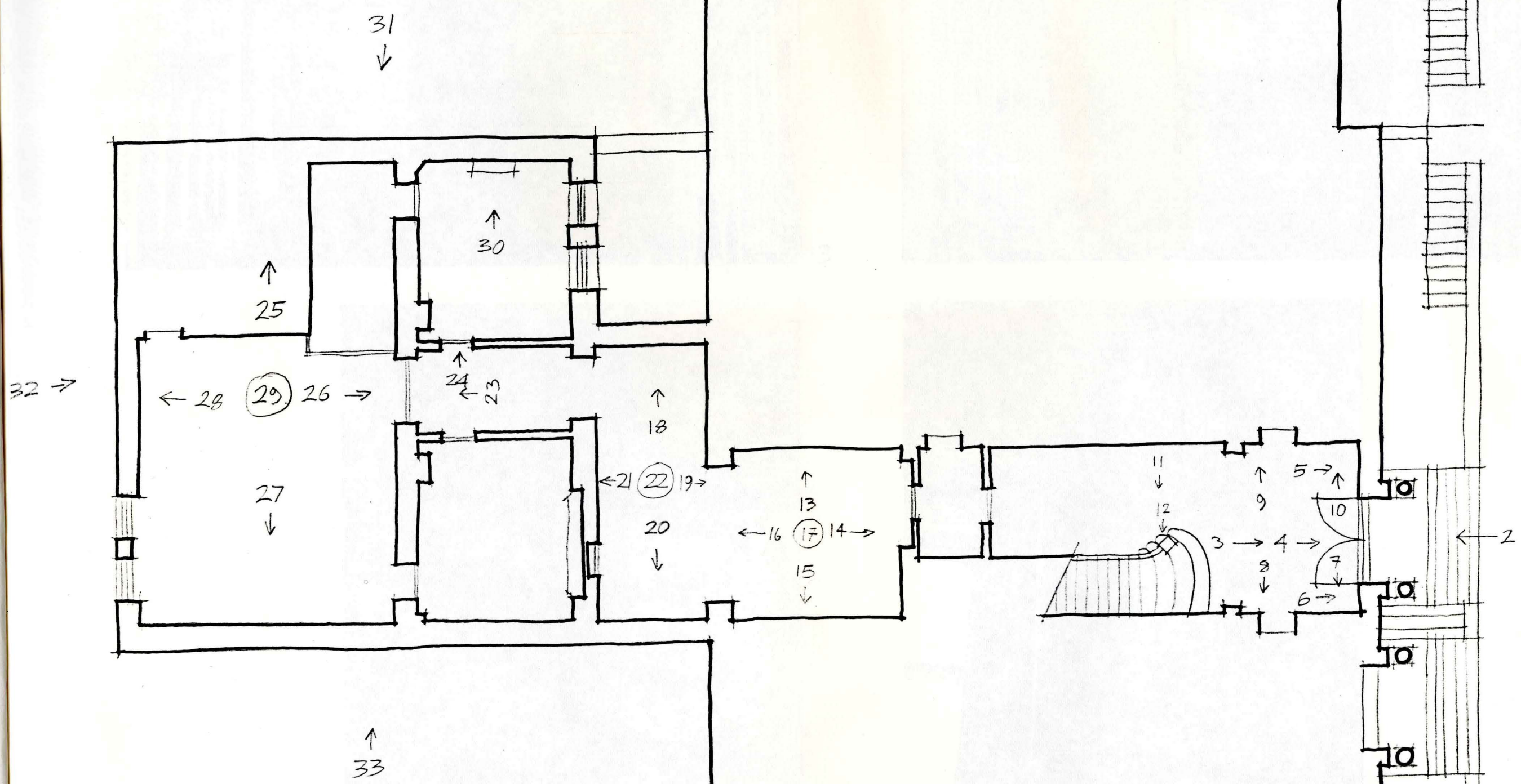
PART II photographs



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KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS
Gillispie 12/7/86



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4.



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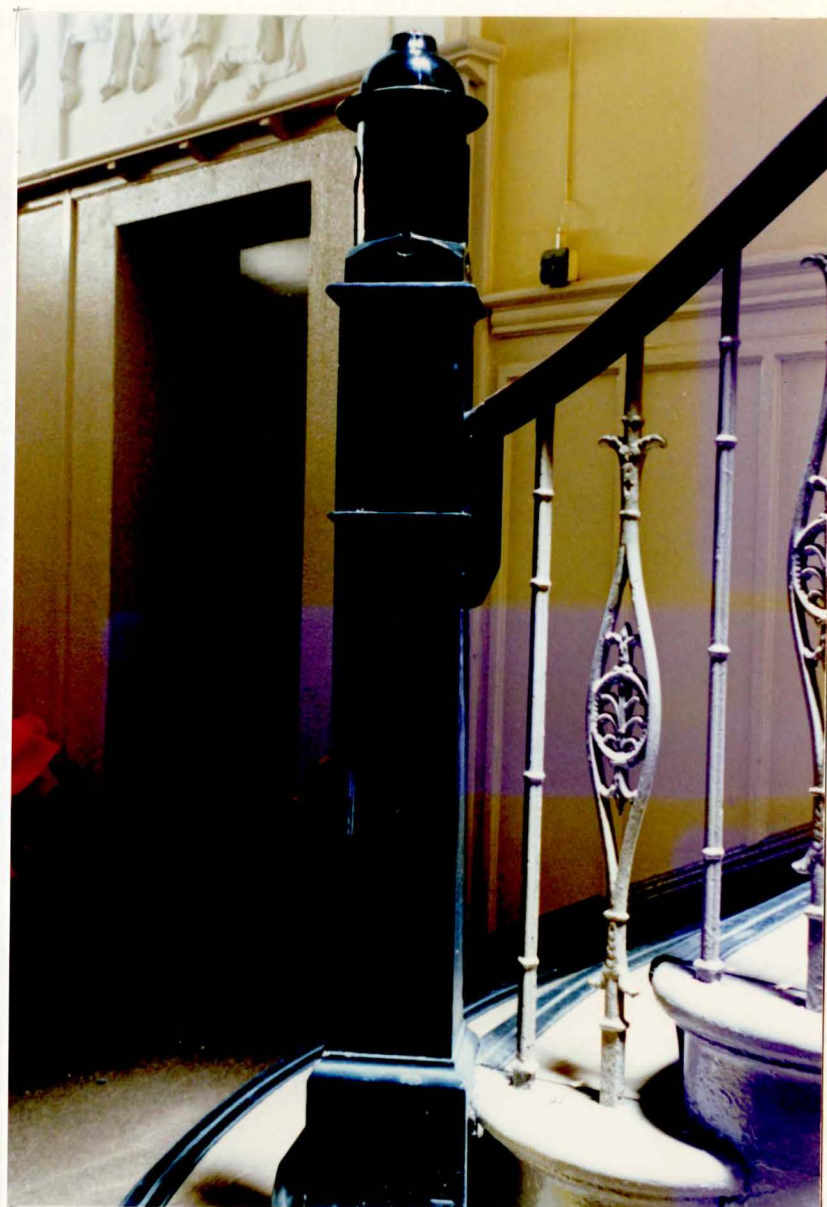
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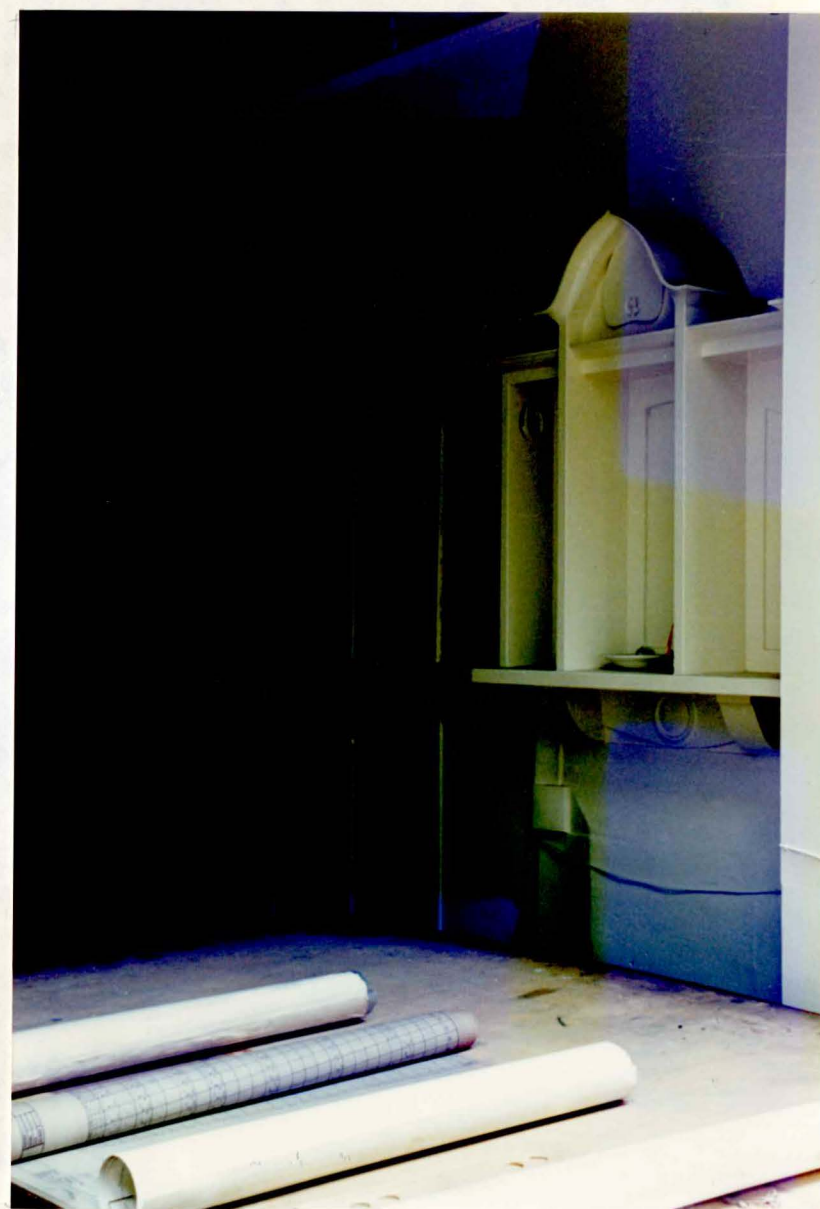
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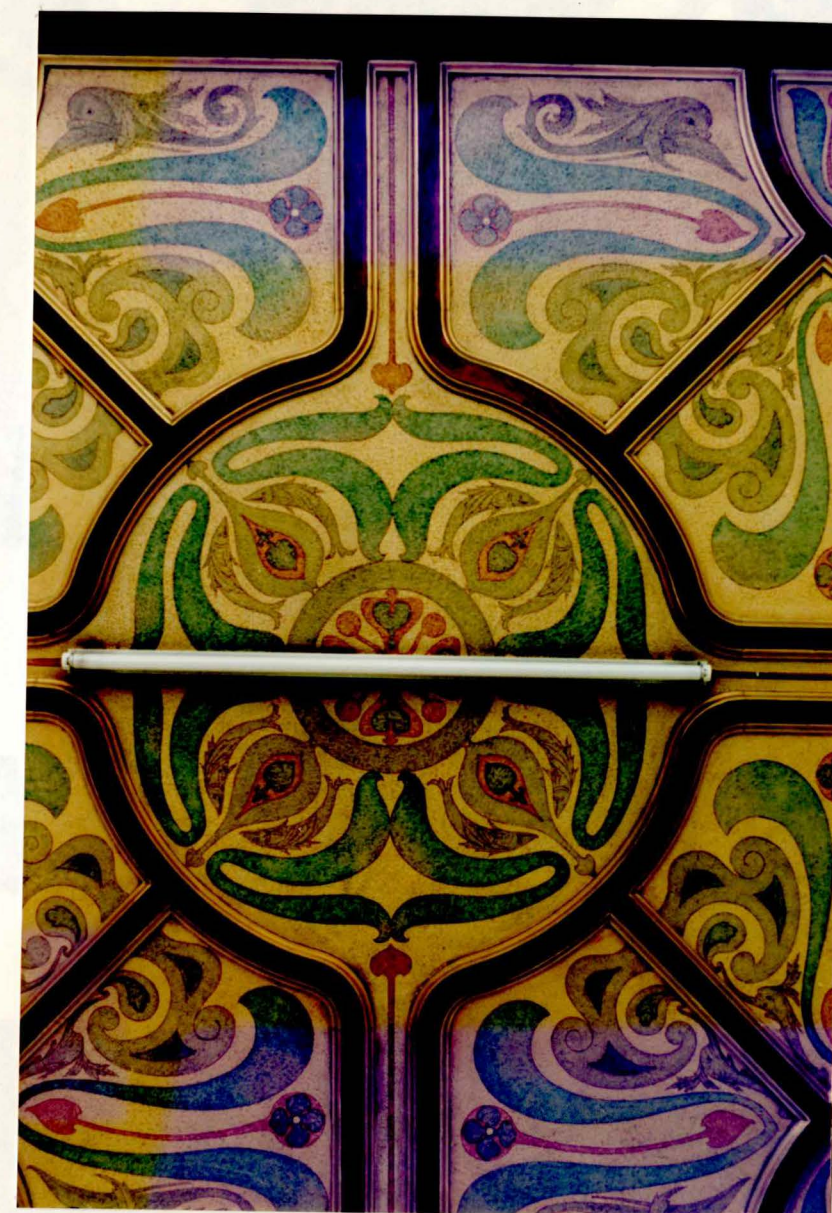
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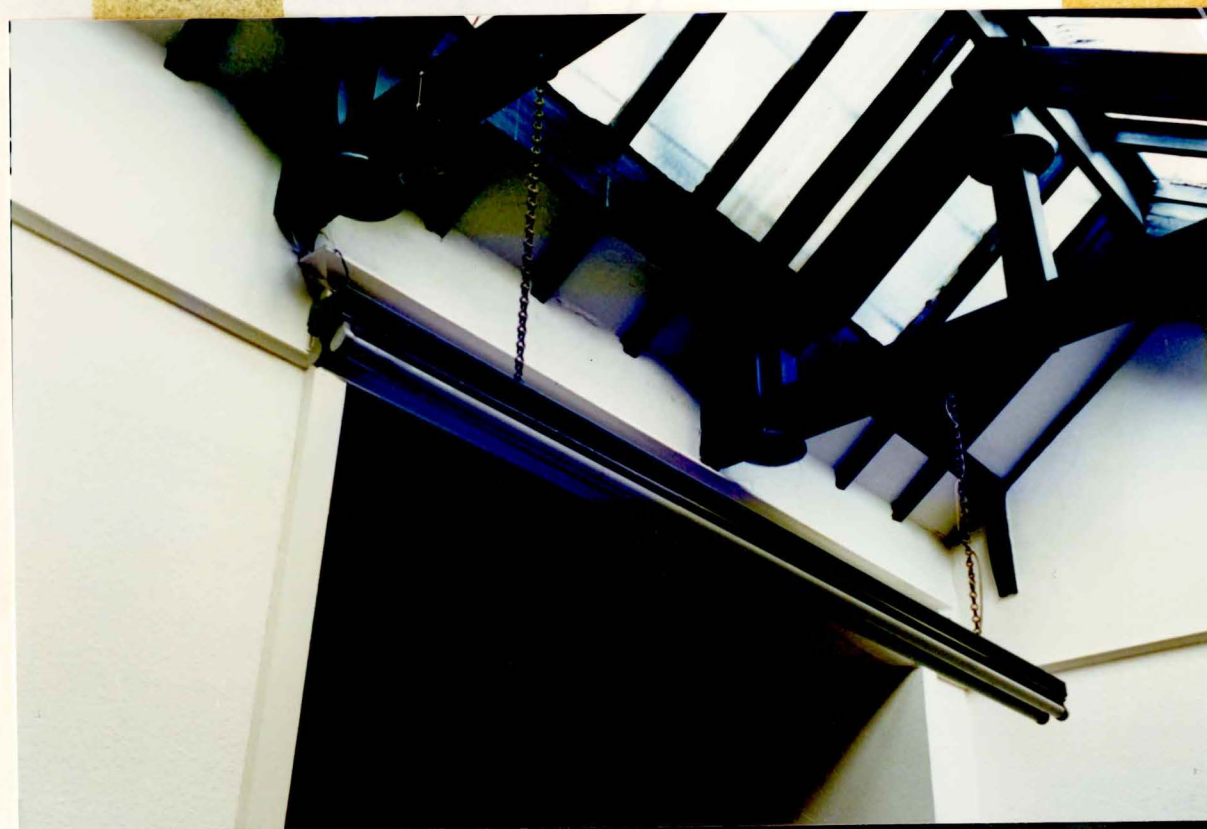
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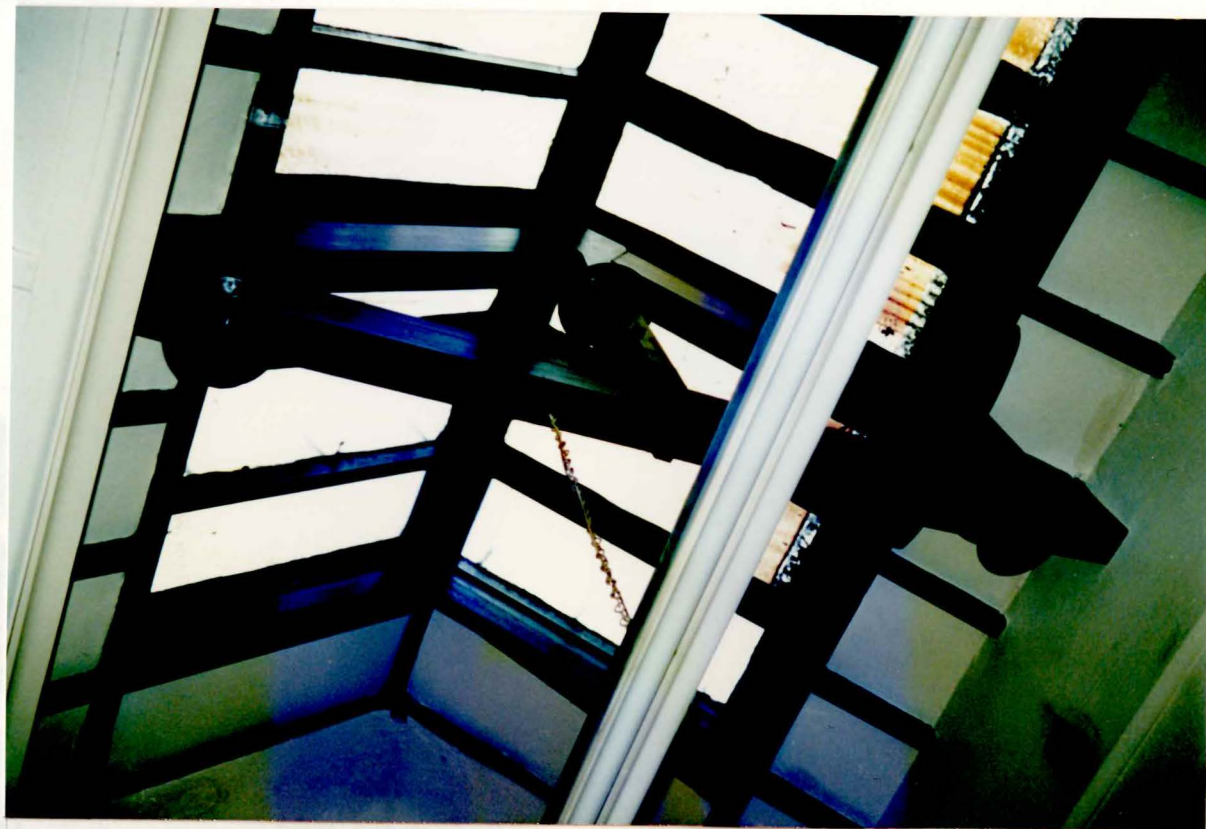
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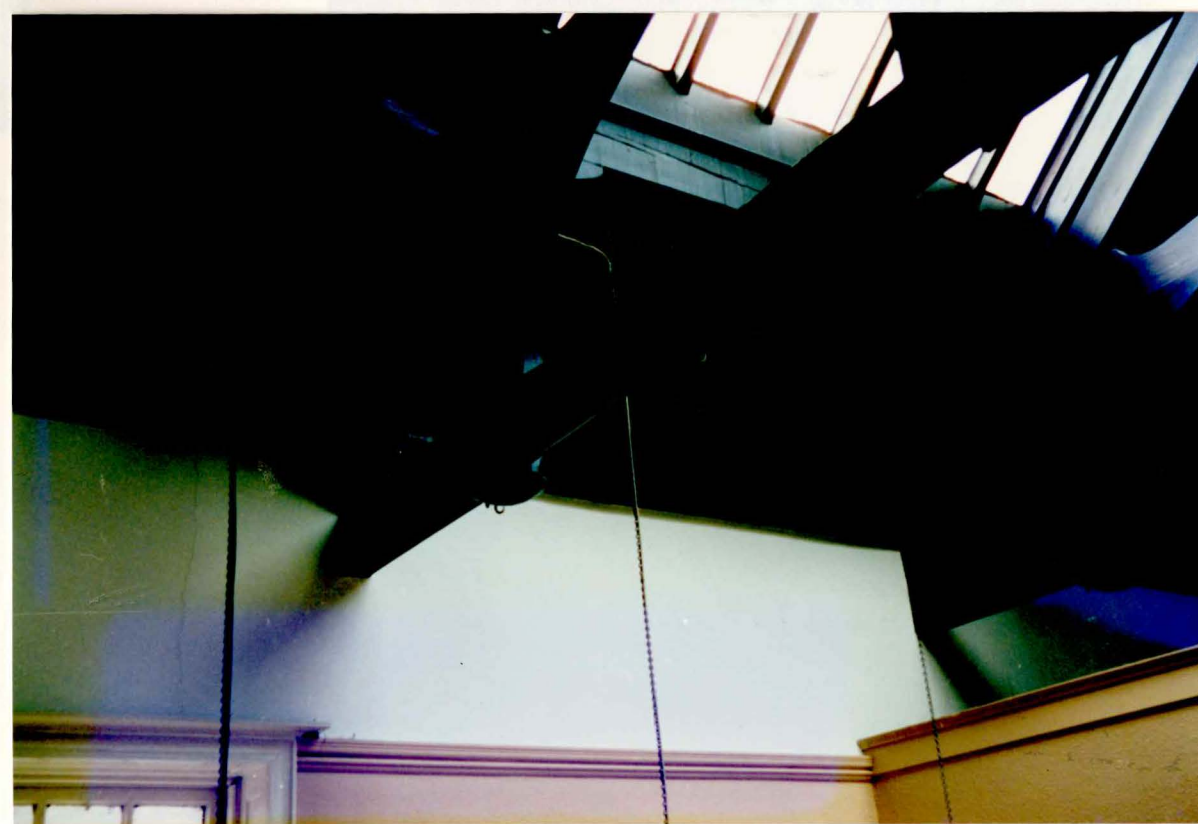
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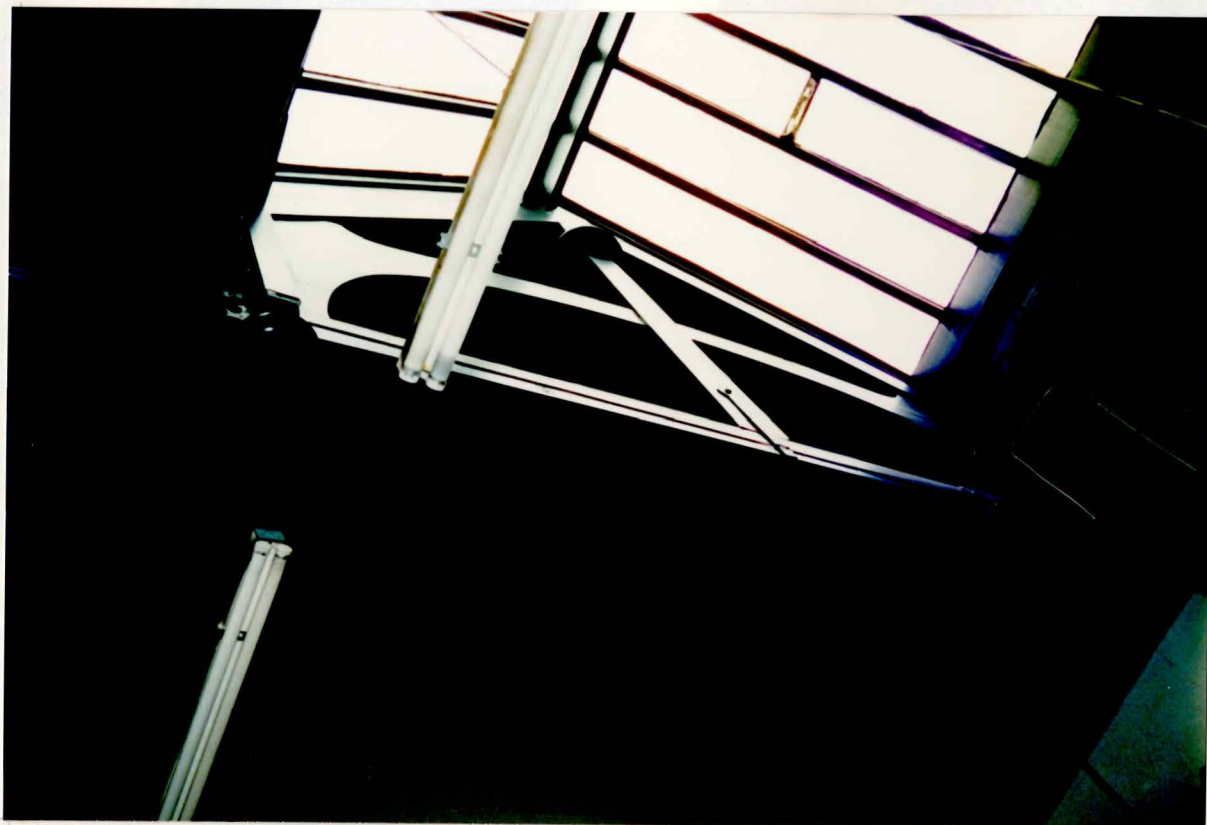
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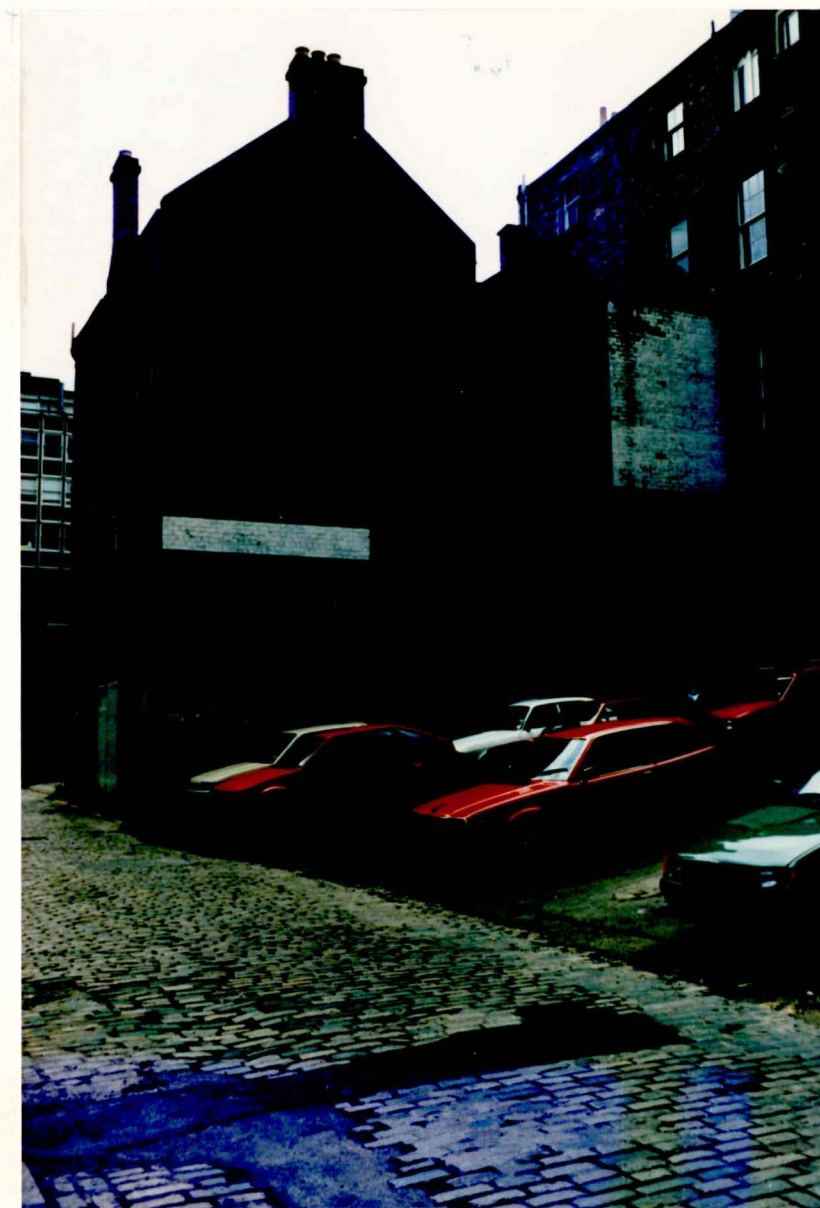
PART 12 WEST AREA



31.



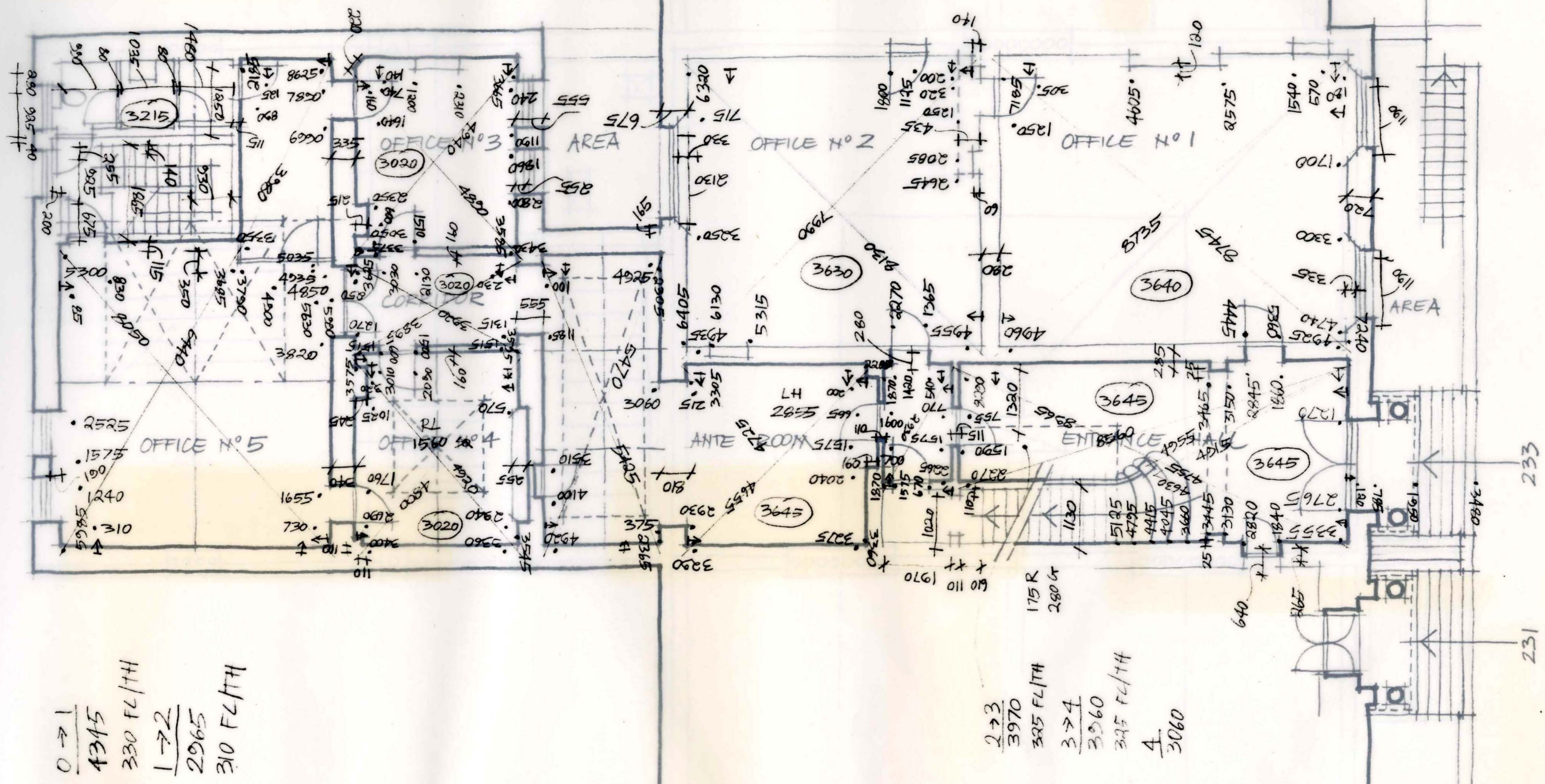
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33.

PART III survey notes

ST. VINCENT STREET

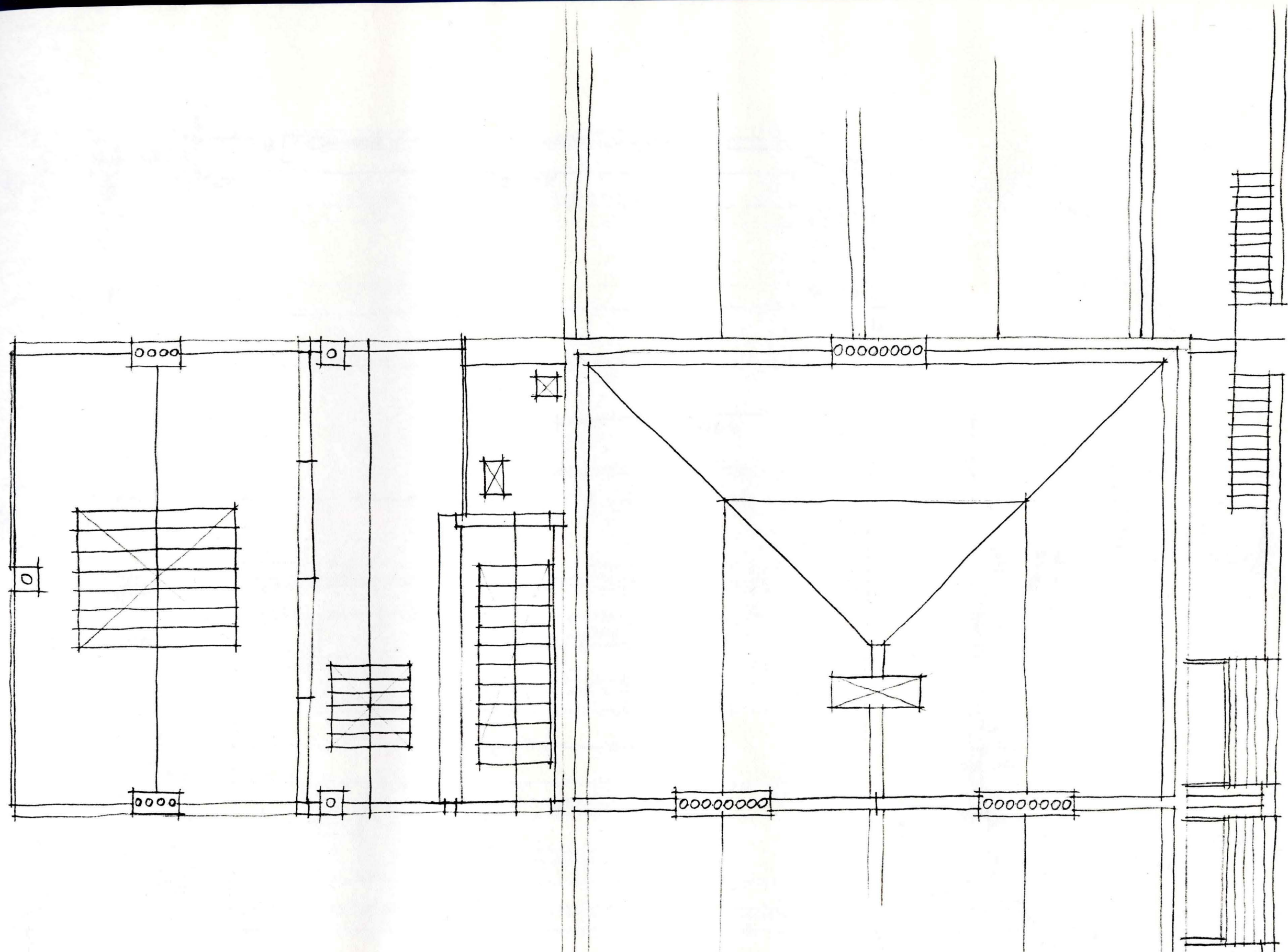


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4345
330 FL/TH
1 → 2
2965
310 FL/TH

2 → 3
3970
325 FL/TH
3 → 4
3960
325 FL/TH
4
3060

PLAN AT LEVEL 2

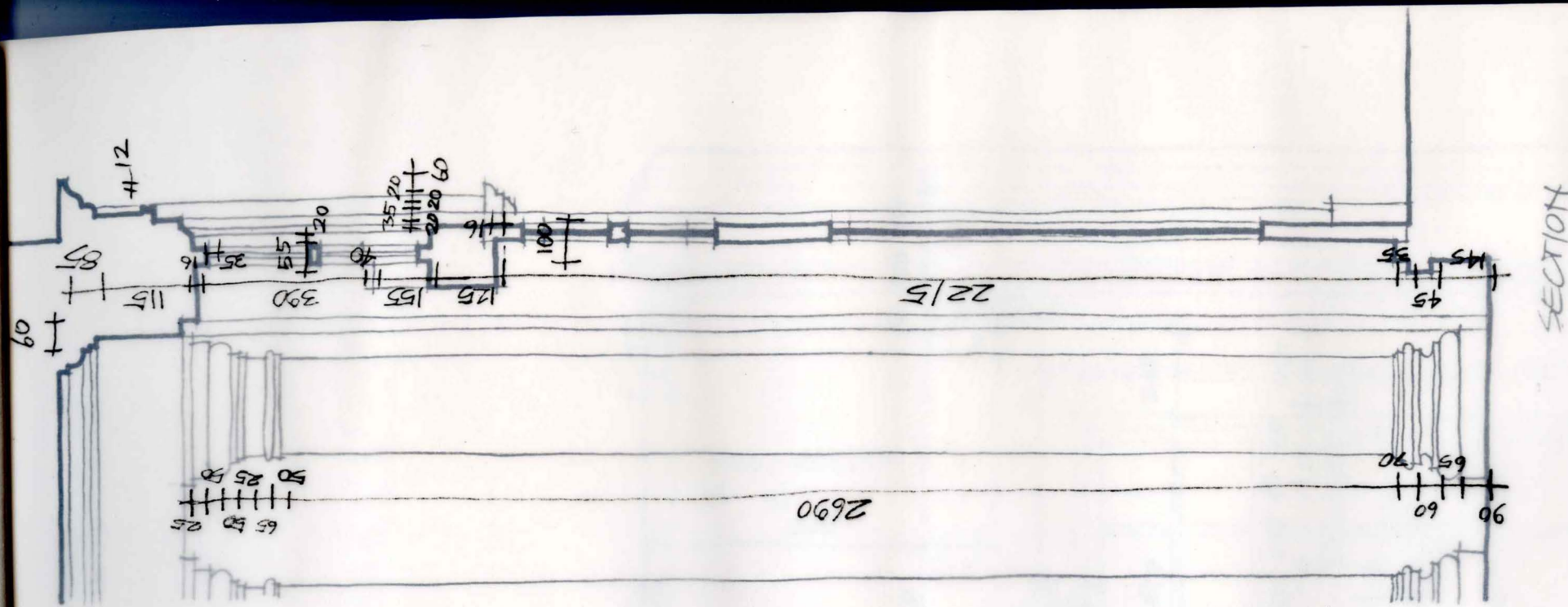
Gillpie 22/7/86



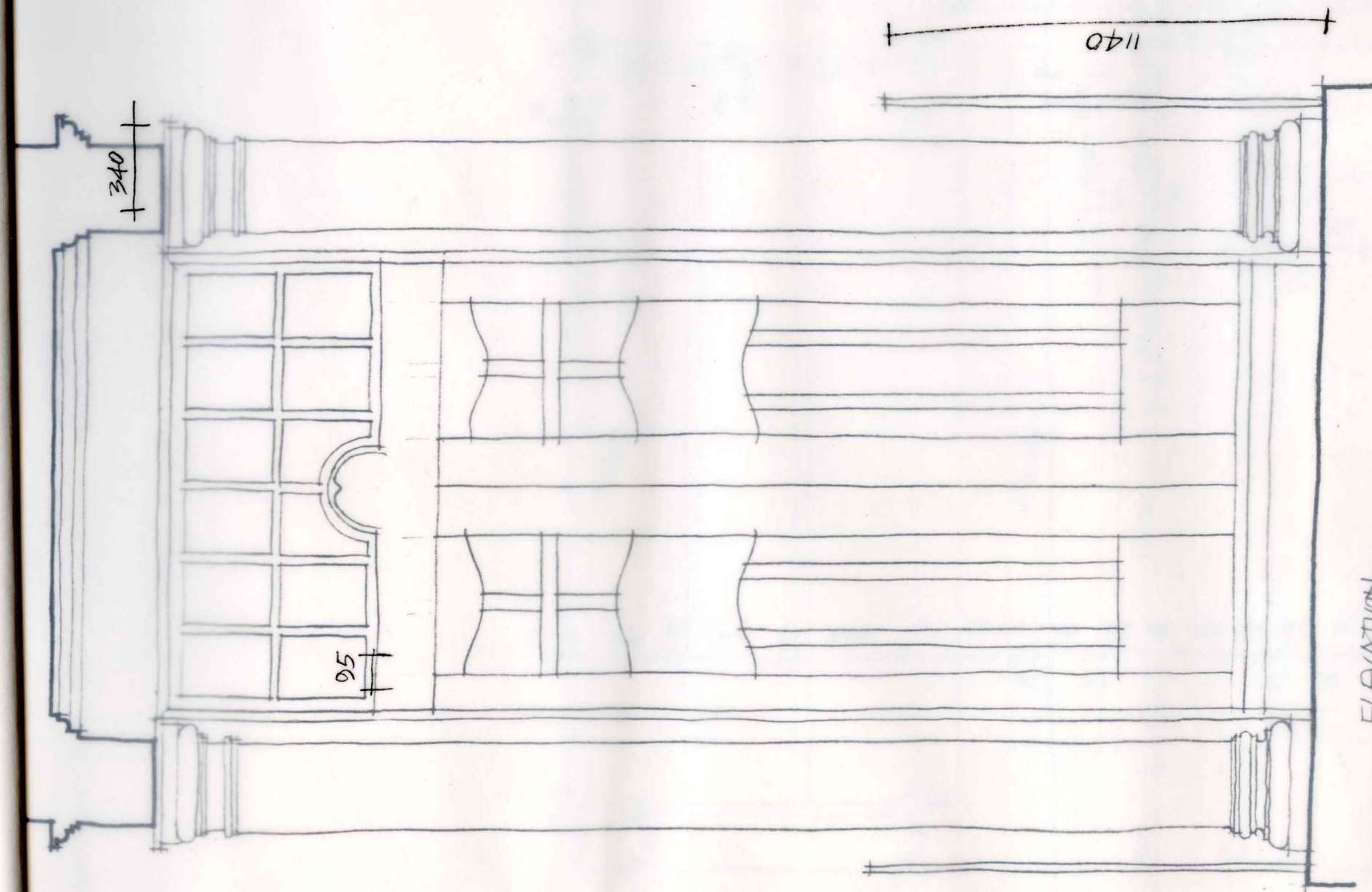
ROOF PLAN

Gilbert 25/7/86

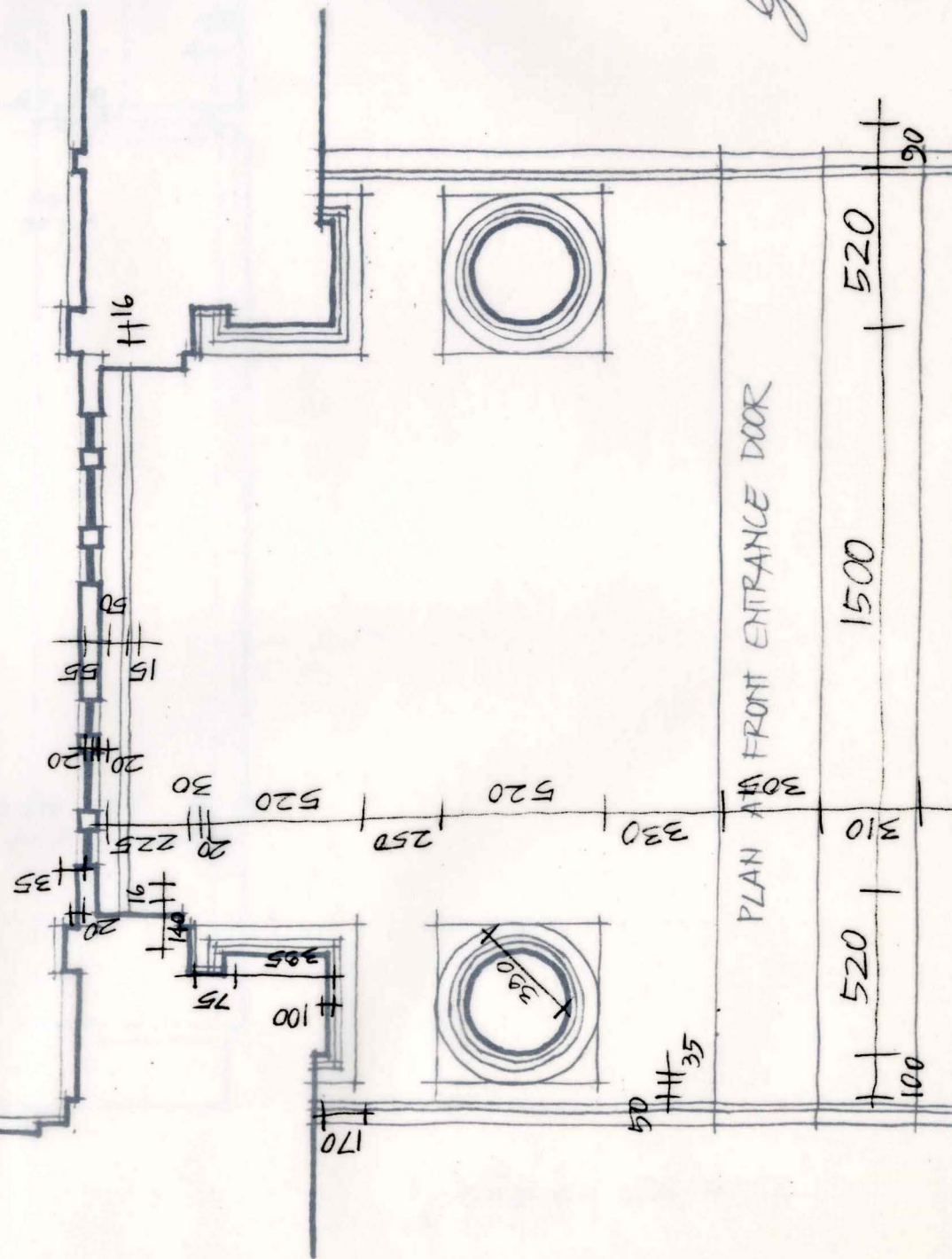
Gillespie 29/7/86



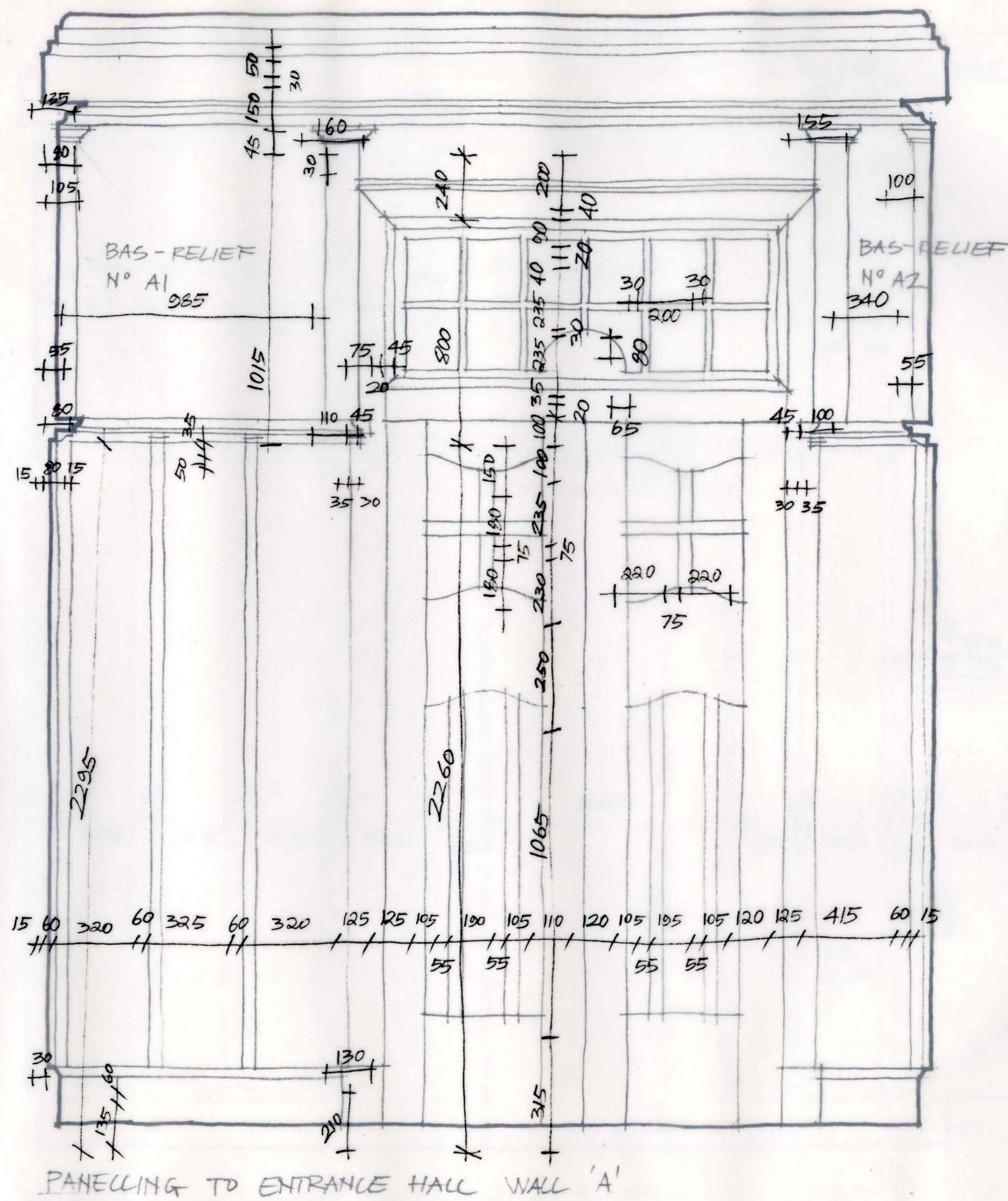
SECT 104



ELEVATION

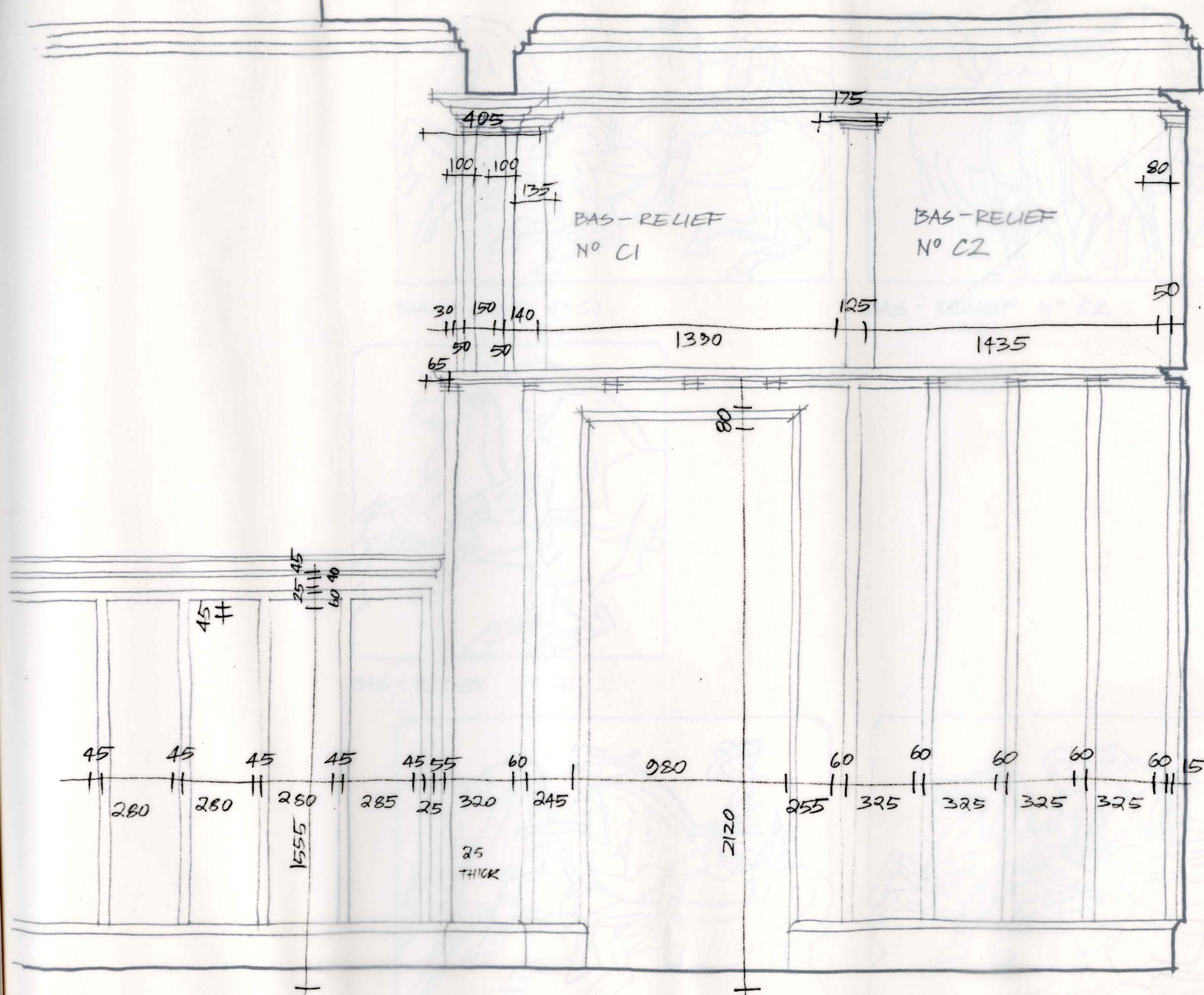


PLAN AT FRONT ENTRANCE DOOR



Gillespie 28/7/86

Gillpie 28/7/86

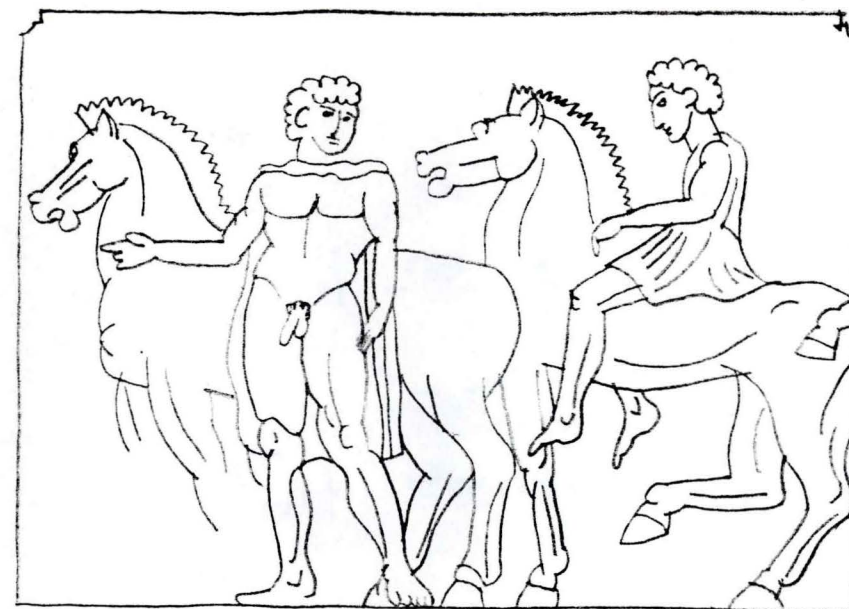


PANELLING TO ENTRANCE HALL WALL 'C'

Gillpie 28/7/86



BAS - RELIEF N° C1



BAS - RELIEF N° C2



BAS - RELIEF N° A1



BAS - RELIEF N° A2

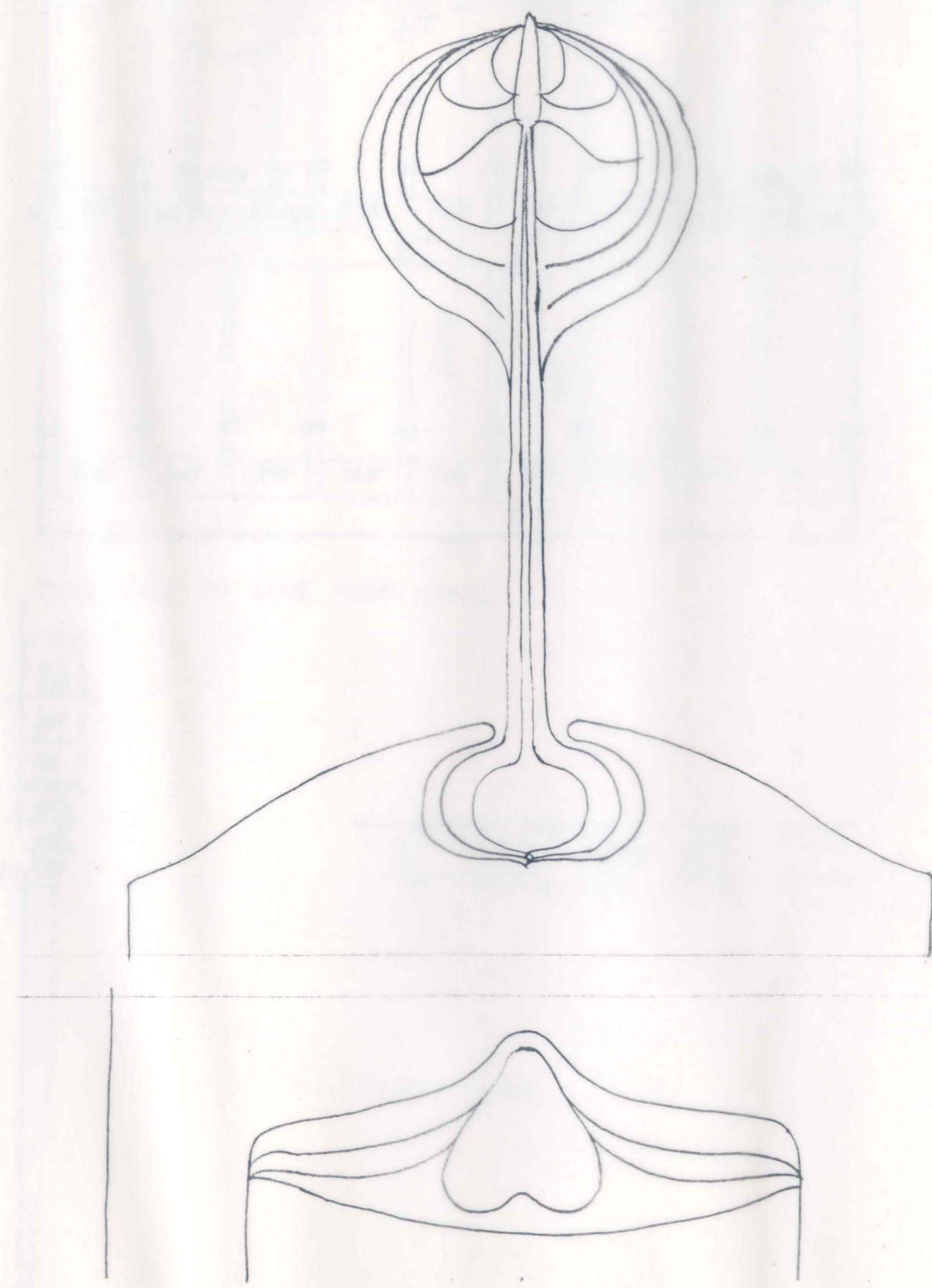


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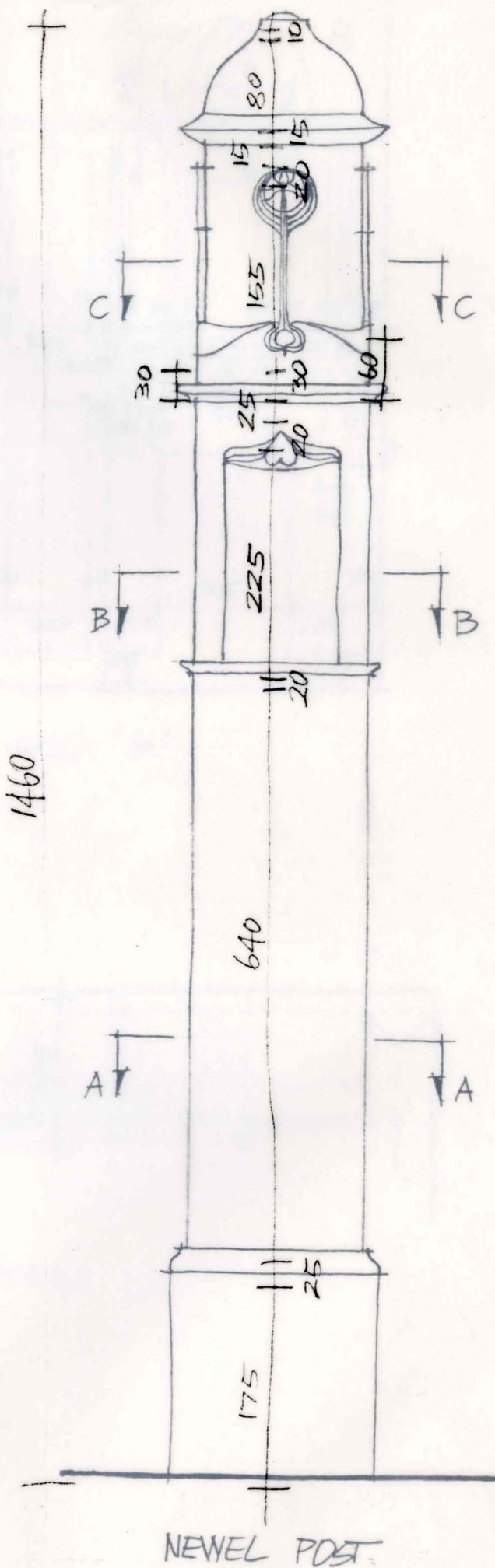
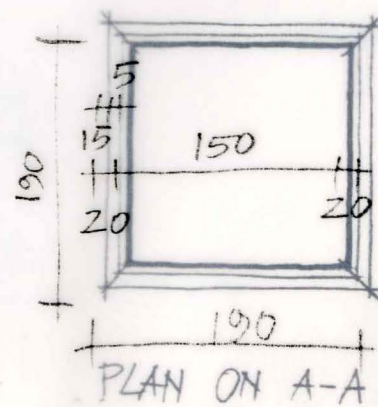
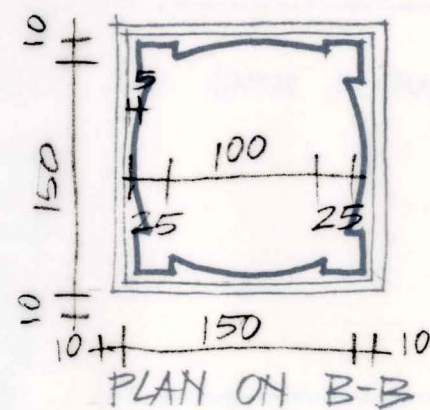
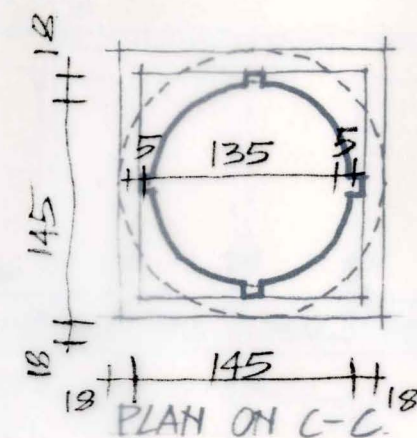


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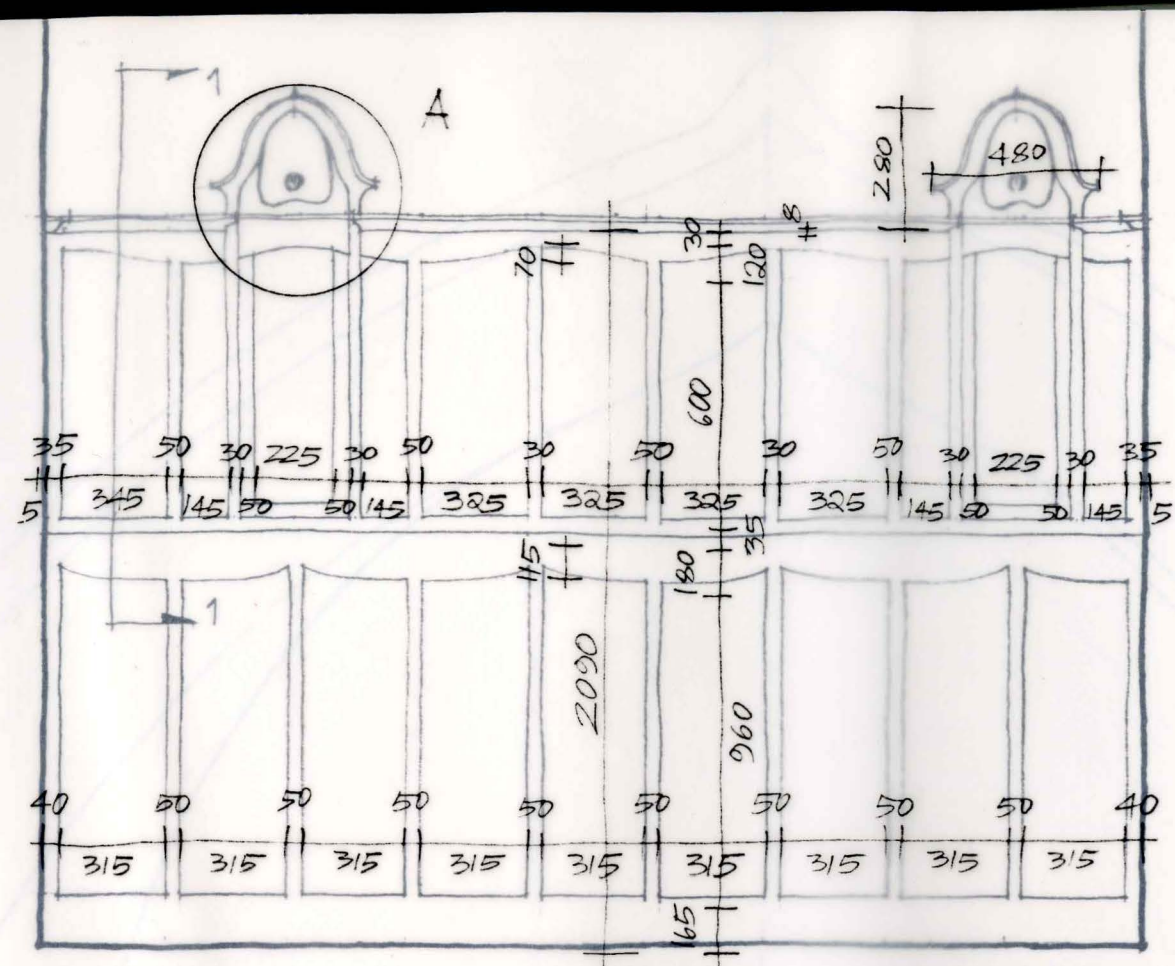
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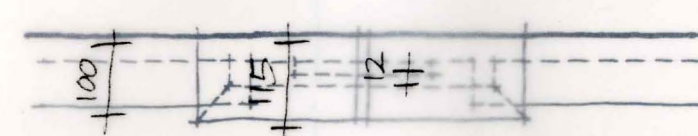
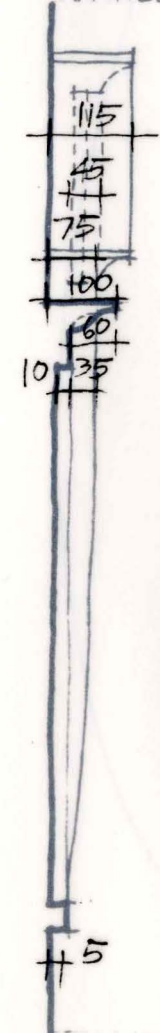
DECORATIVE CARVINGS FULL SIZE



Gillies 28/7/86

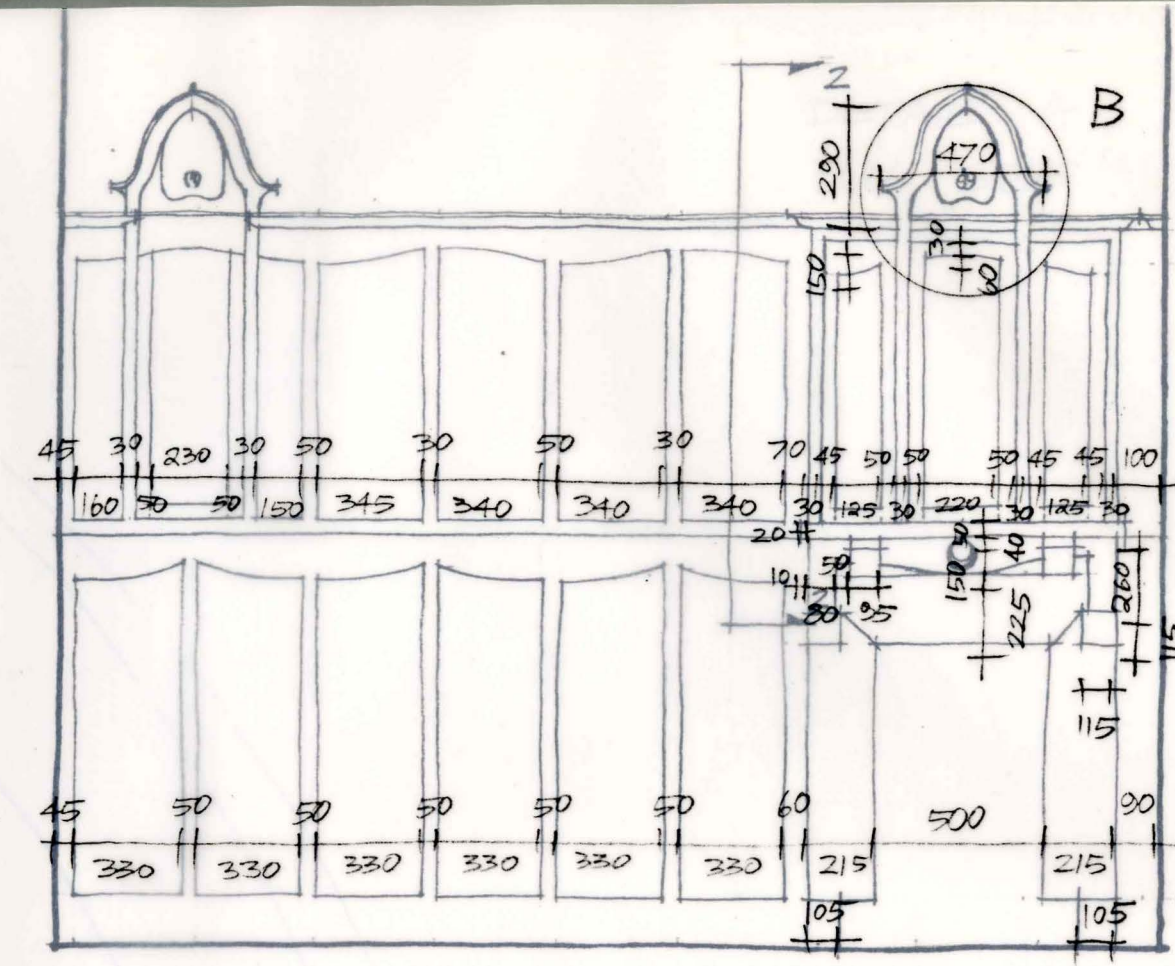


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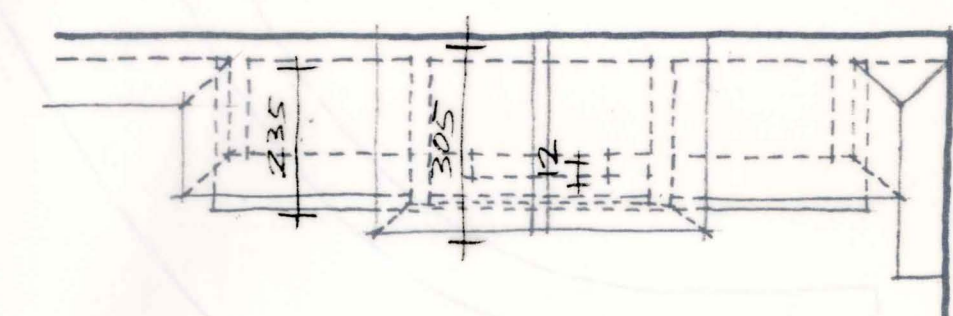
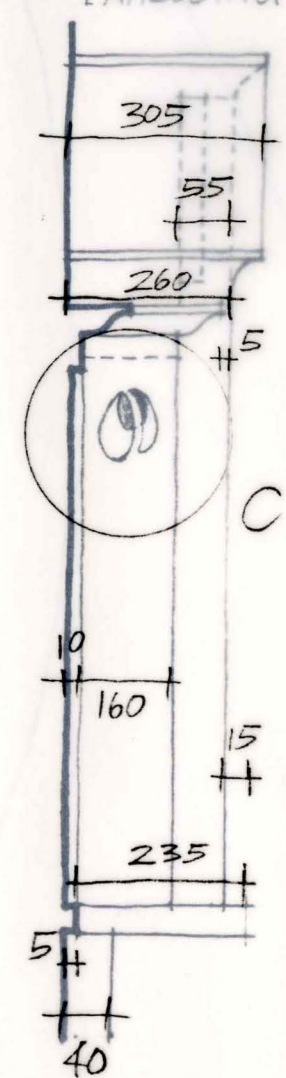


PLAN DETAIL

SECTIONAL ELEVATION 1-1



PANELLING TO ANTE ROOM WALL 'B'

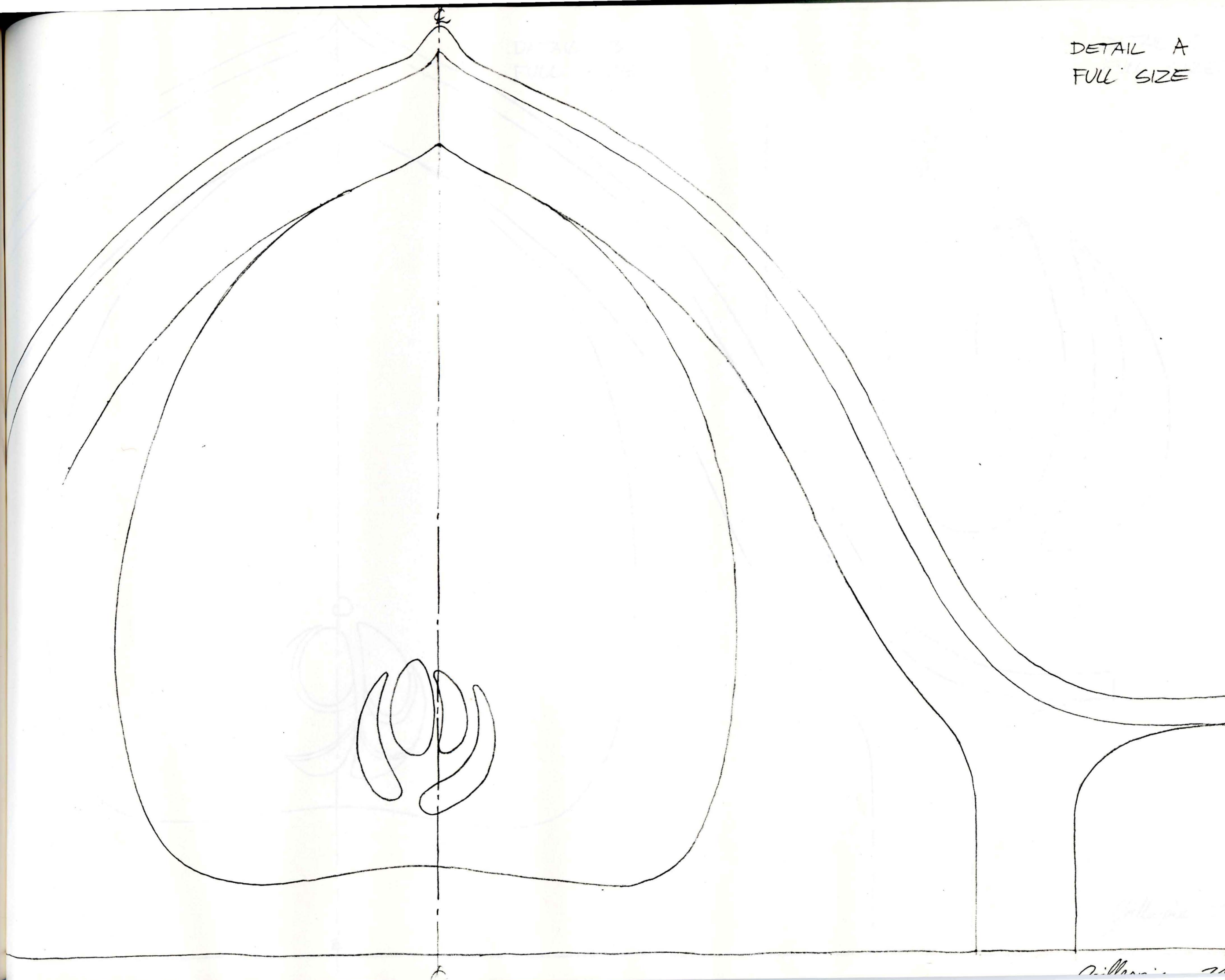


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SECTIONAL ELEVATION 2-2

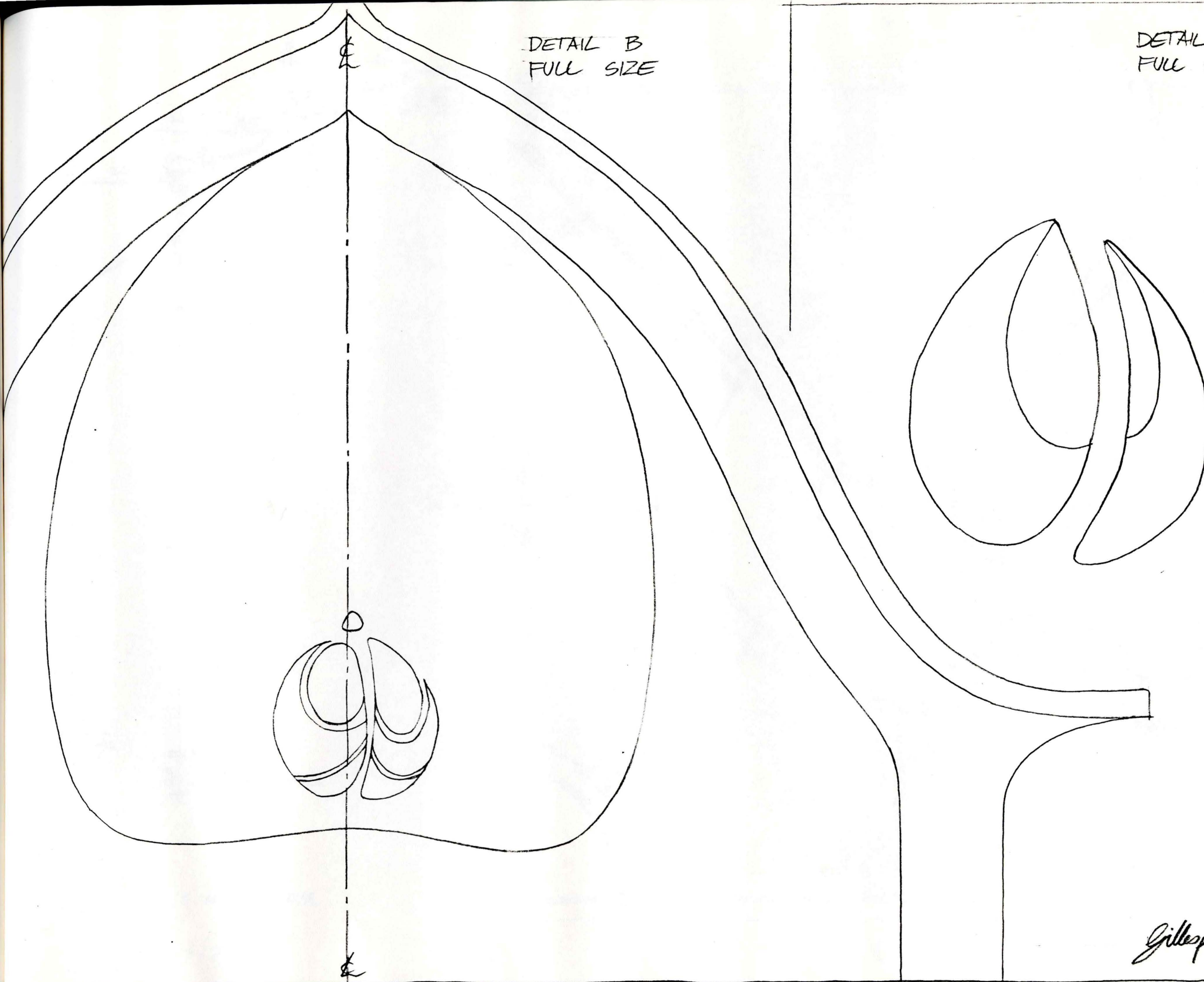
Gillpie 24/7/86

DETAIL A
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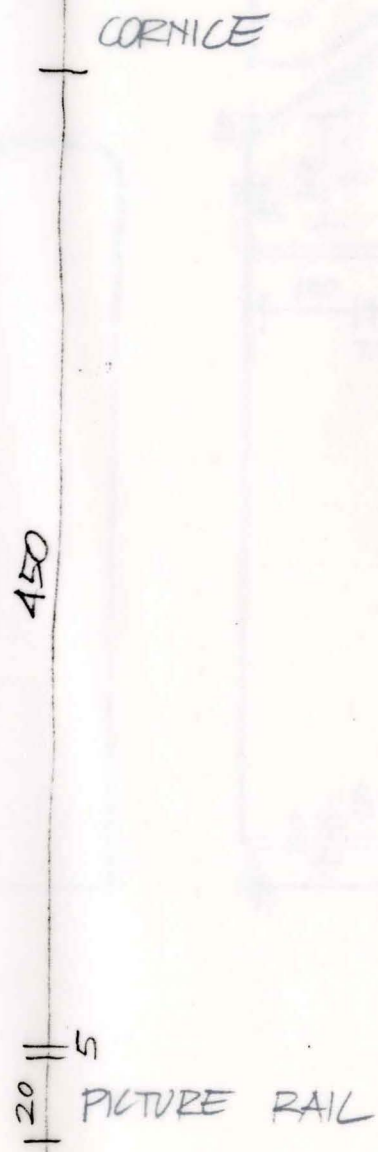


DETAIL B
FULL SIZE

DETAIL C
FULL SIZE



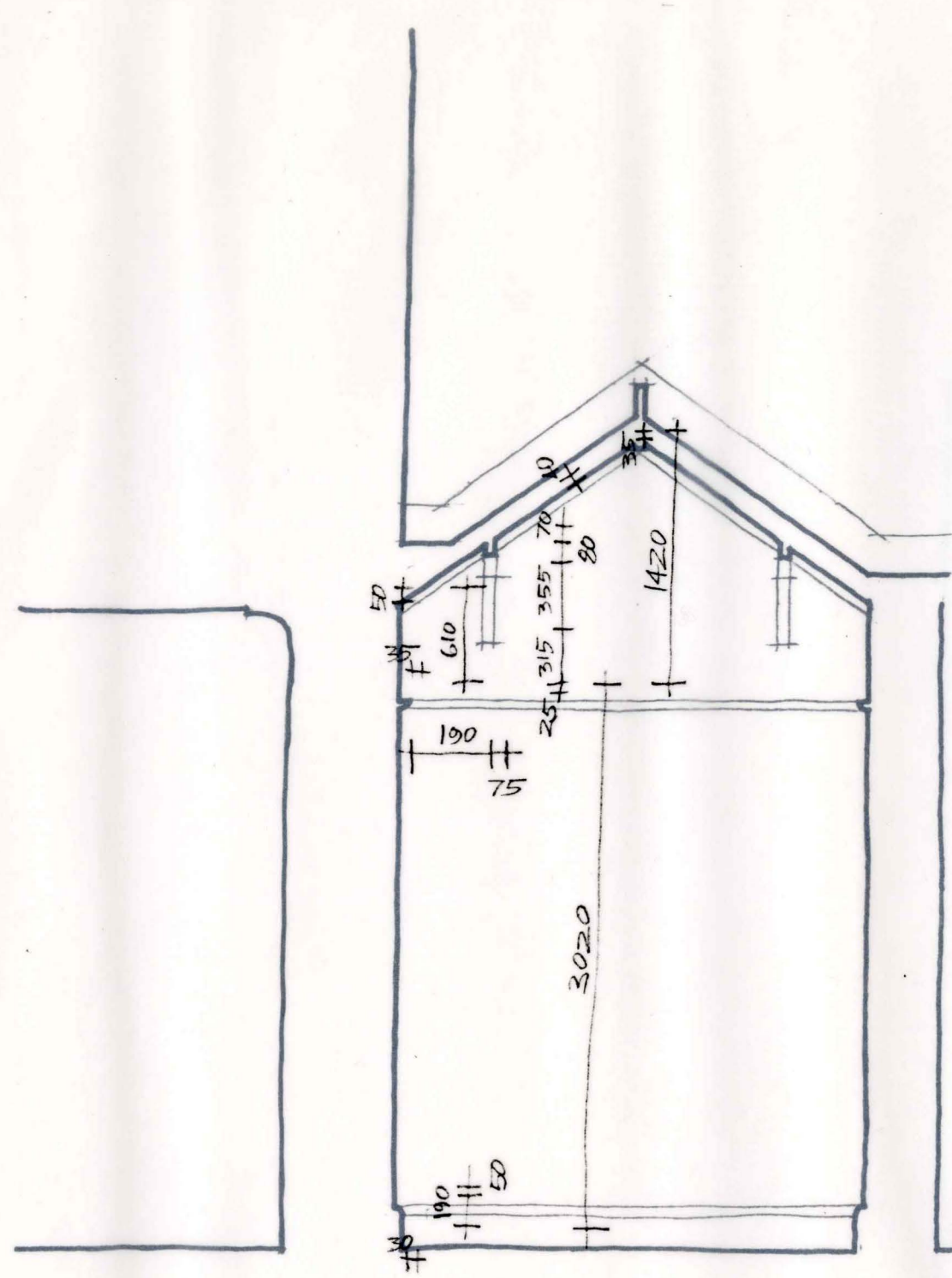
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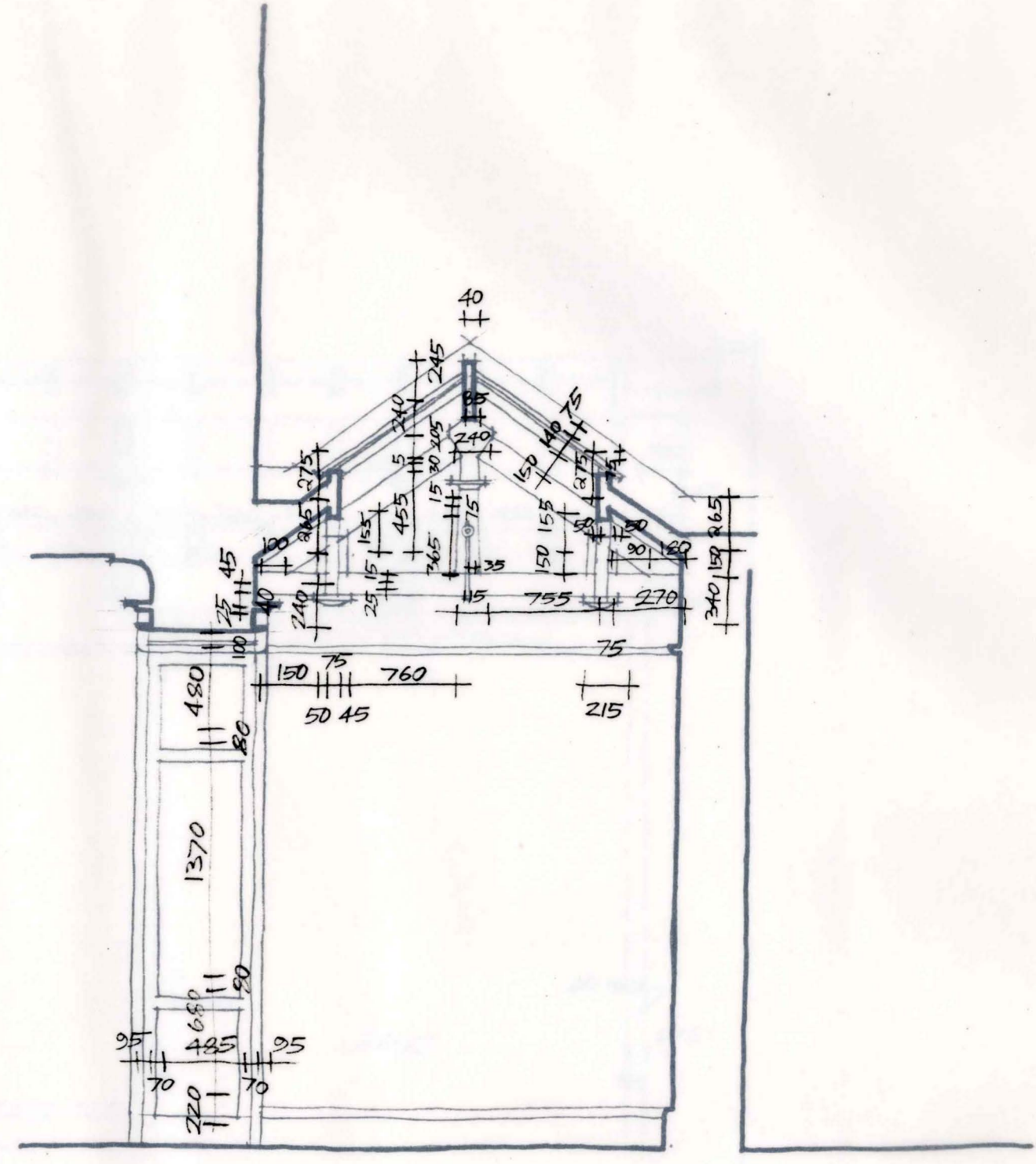
CEILING TO ANTE ROOM

Gillpie 24/7/86





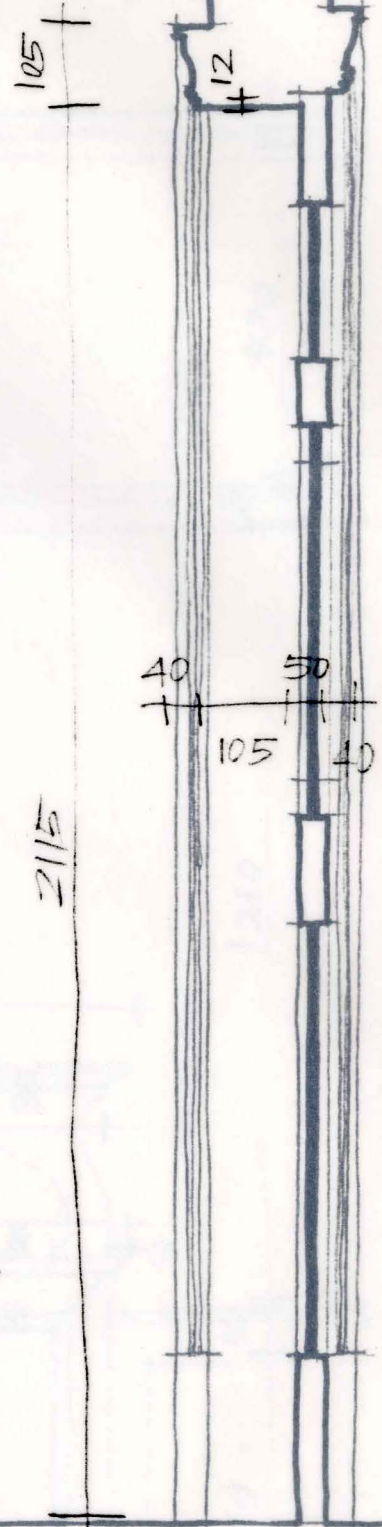
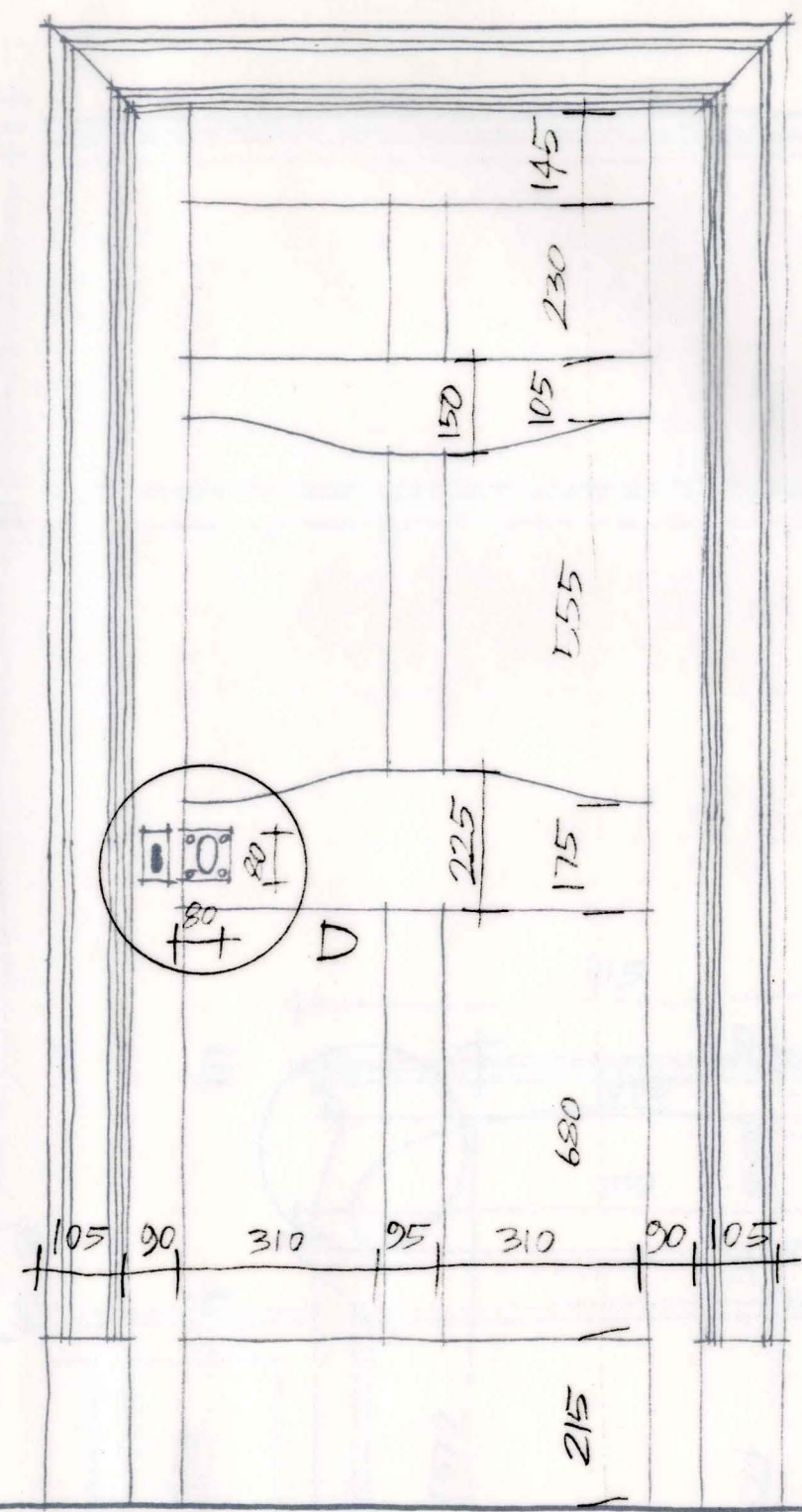
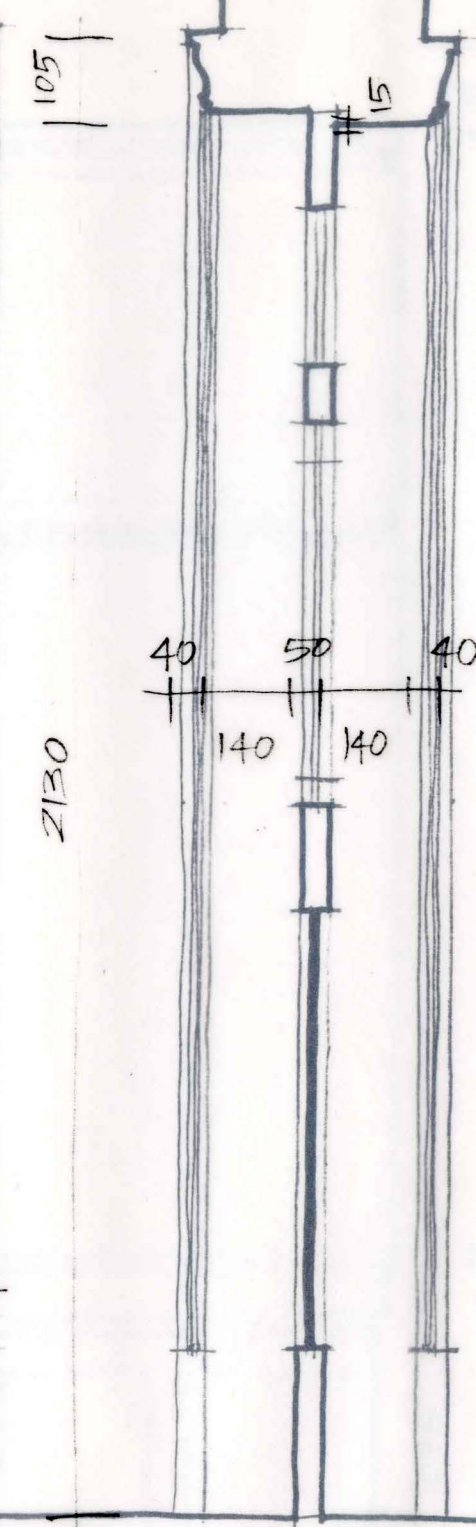
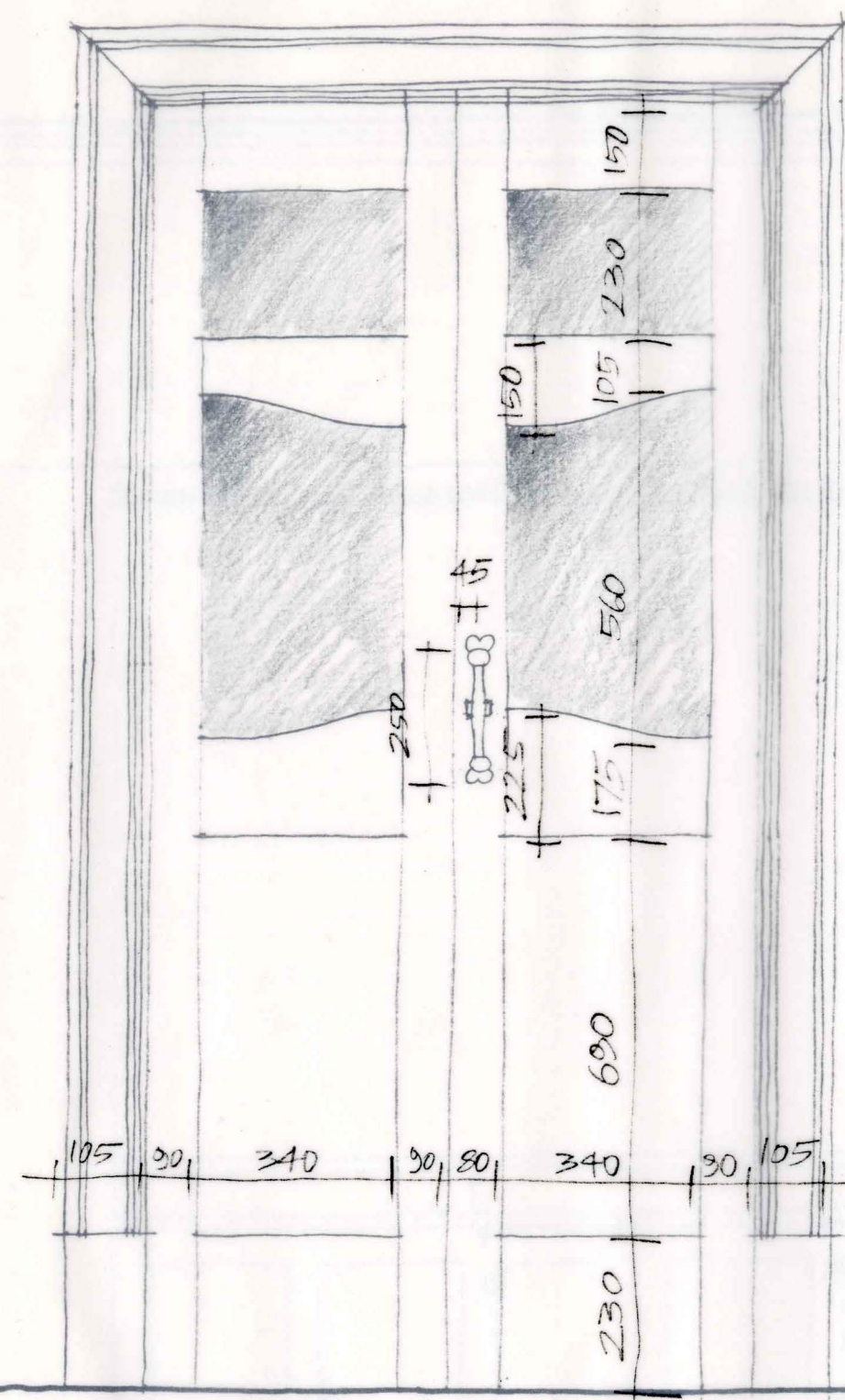
SECTIONAL ELEVATION OF GABLE TO CORRIDOR



SECTIONAL ELEVATION OF ROOF TRUSS TO CORRIDOR

Gillepie 25/7/86

Gilgisi 25/7/86

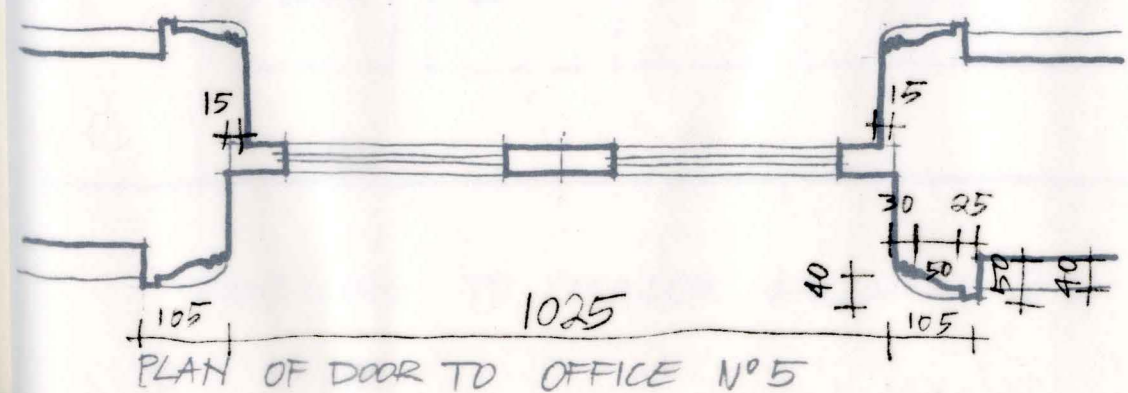


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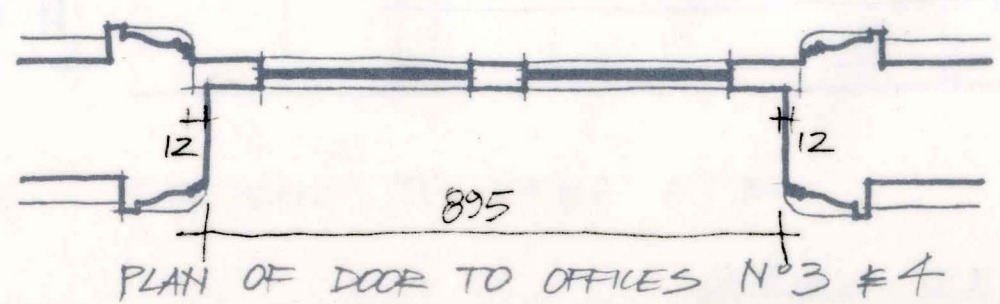
SECTION

ELEVATION

SECTION

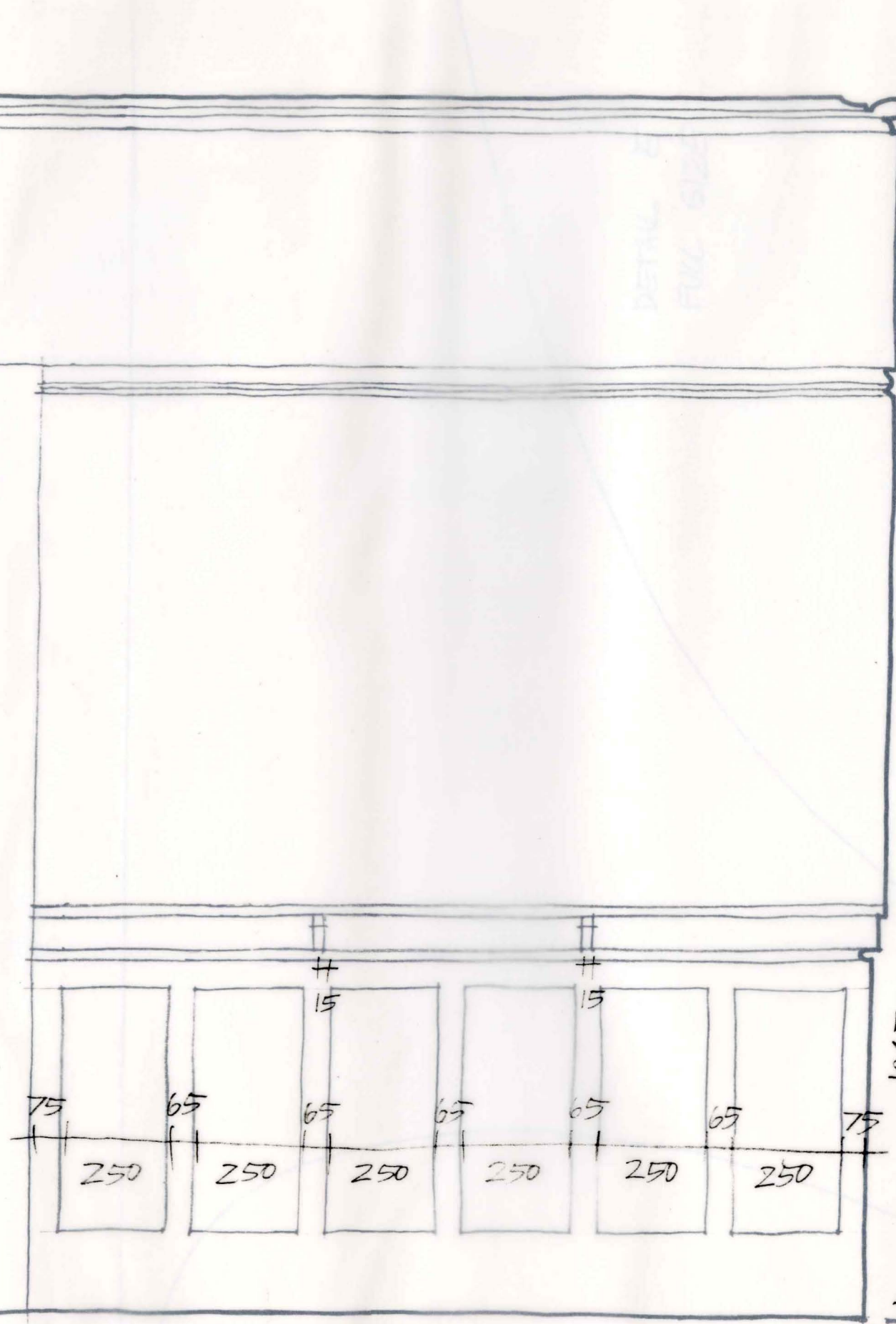


PLAN OF DOOR TO OFFICE N° 5

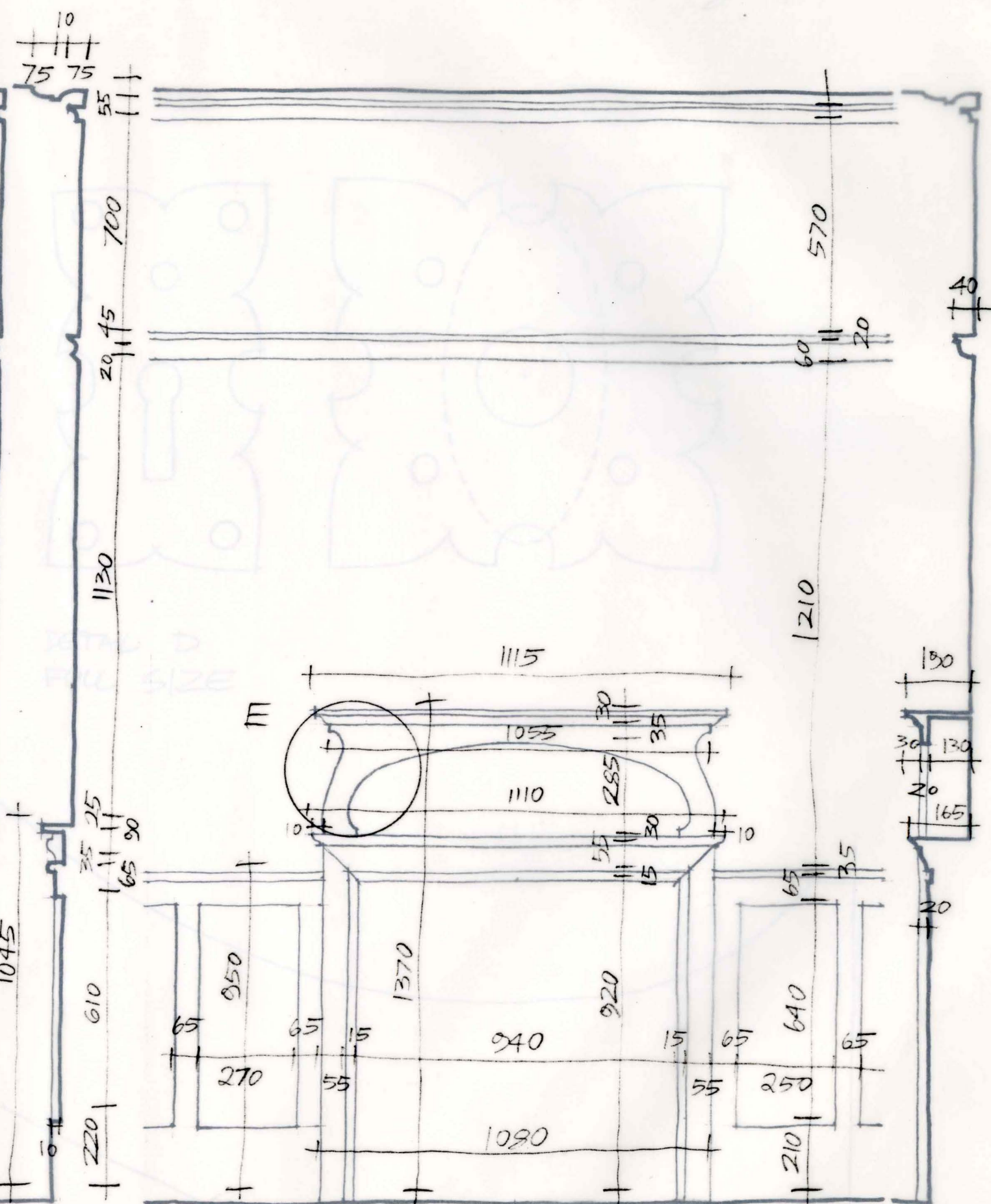


PLAN OF DOOR TO OFFICES N° 3 & 4

Gillkpie 27/7/86



PANELLING TO CORRIDOR WALLS F & G

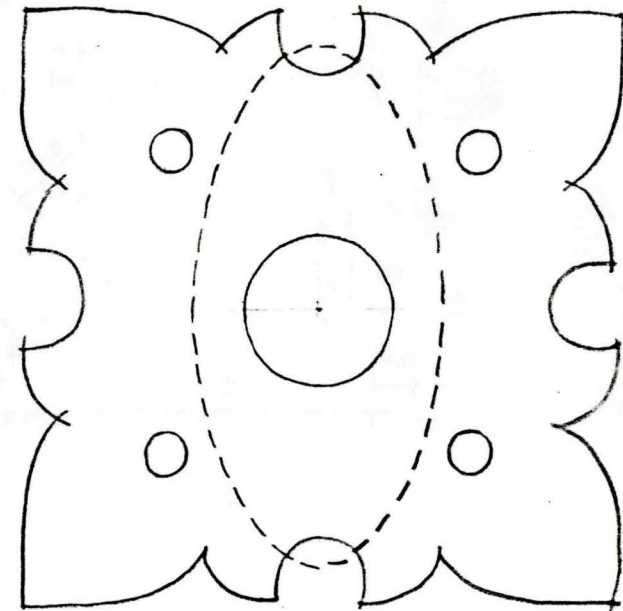
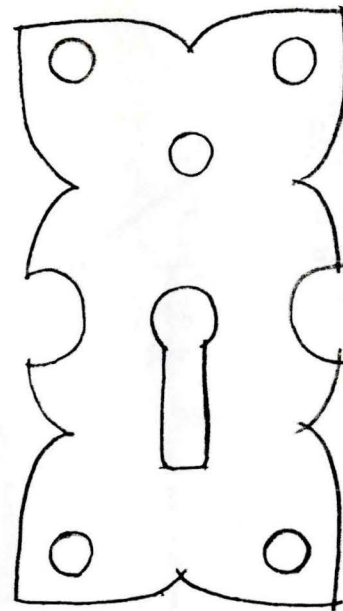


SECTION FIREPLACE TO OFFICE N° 3

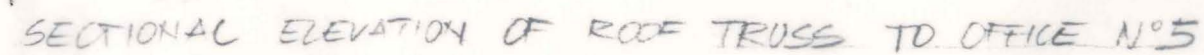
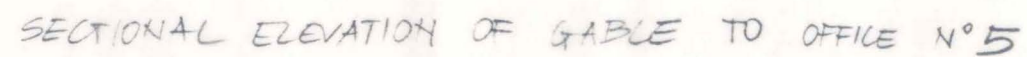
SECTION

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DETAIL E
FULL SIZE

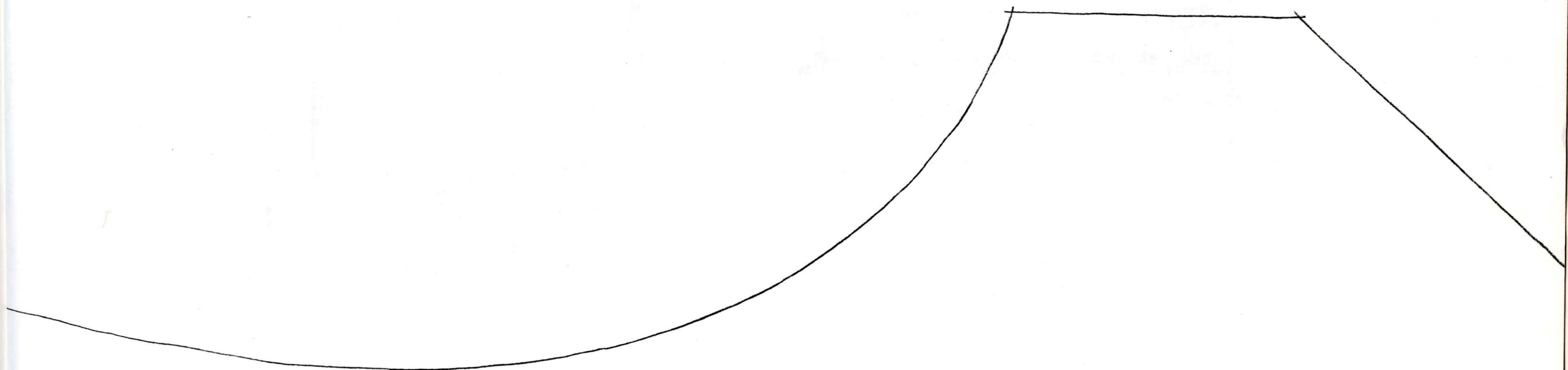


DETAIL D
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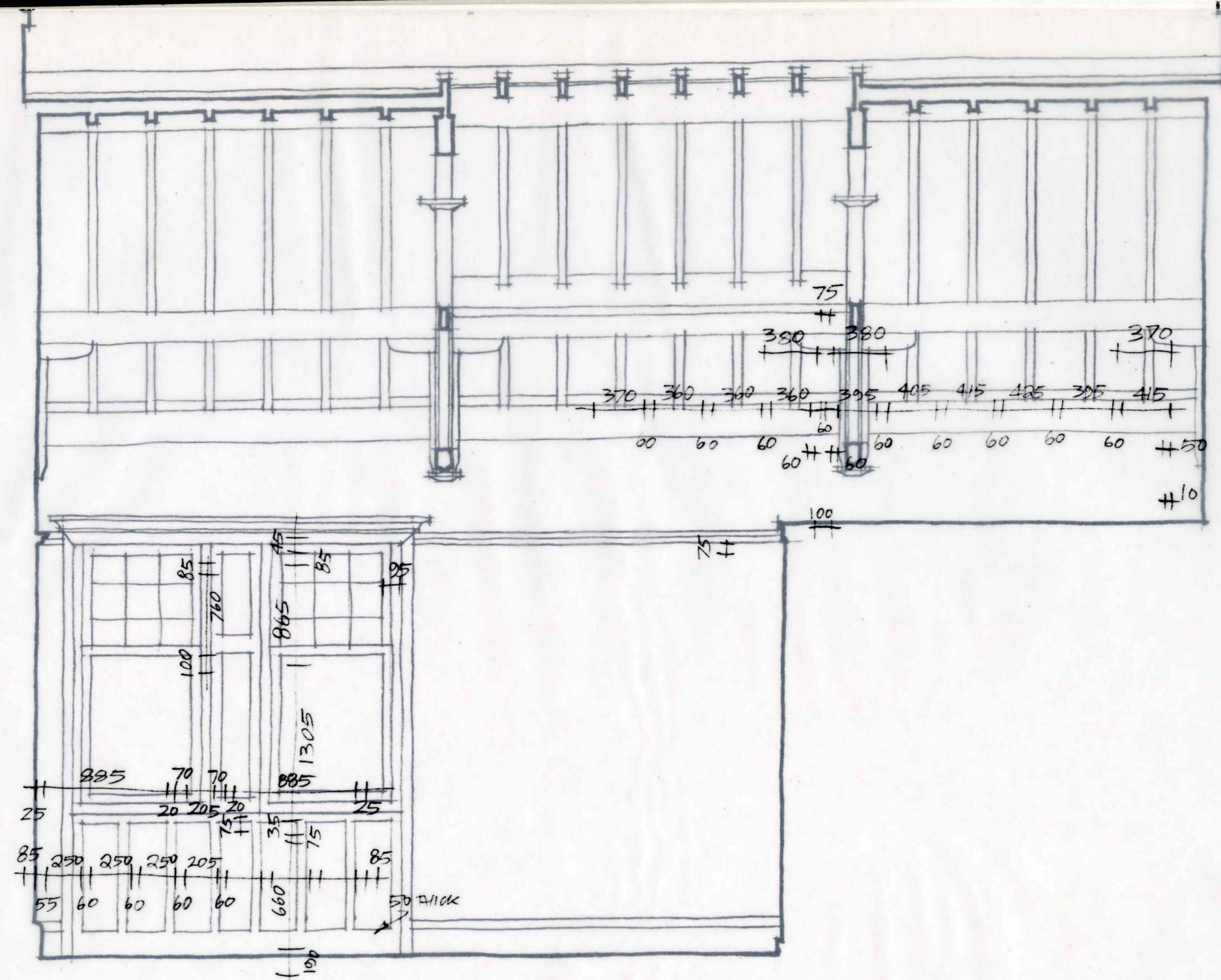


Gilspie 23/7/86

DETAIL F
FULL SIZE



Gillepie 23/7/86



LONGITUDINAL SECTIONAL ELEVATION TO OFFICE N° 5

Gillepie 23/7/86